

BOWEN UNIVERSITY, IWO, OSUN STATE

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

2019/2020 FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

COURSE CODE: ENG 231

TIME ALLOWED: 3 Hours

COURSE TITLE: POETRY IN ENGLISH

DATE: FEBRUARY, 2020

**INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER QUESTION ONE AND ANY OTHER TWO QUESTIONS, ONE FROM EACH SECTION. DO NOT USE THE SAME MATERIAL TWICE.**

1. **Either: (a)** What is context, and why is it important? What happens when the 'context' of a poem is not obvious? (30 marks)  
**Or: (b)** Write short notes on any three socio-cultural occasions that can produce good traditional contexts for African oral poetry. (30 marks)

**SECTION A**

2. **Either: (a)** Clearly, comment on Claude McKay and Phyllis Wheatley's handling of the themes of slavery and freedom. Illustrate with examples from poems studied in class. (20 marks)  
**Or: (b)** Analyse "Maiden Name" and "Lord Randall", paying attention to themes and language use. (20 marks)
3. Compare and contrast Jonathan Swift's "The Day of Judgment" and Isaac Watt's "The Day of Judgment." (20 marks)

**SECTION B**

4. Critically, discuss any two metaphysical poems studied in class, paying particular attention to their themes and the background(s) of the poet(s). (20 marks)
5. Paying attention to the contexts of the poems, compare and contrast "Hawk Roosting" and "Frog Autumn". (20 marks)