

BOWEN UNIVERSITY, IWO, OSUN STATE

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

2018/2019 FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

COURSE CODE: ENG 425

TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS

COURSE TITLE: AN INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY HISTORY, THEORY AND CRITICISM

DATE: DECEMBER, 2018

INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS, ONE QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION.

SECTION A

1. Write a critical appreciation of one of the following poems. (30 marks)

"It all Started with the Conversion"

- (a) It all started with the conversion,
We accepted the conversion in the belief that we were accepting
God,
Yet this God we said we would accept,
This Bible is pregnant with abomination.
It is held by a man whose collar faces westward.
In the front is the part that is folded over,
At the back is an opening where butterflies stay,
And that is where a cannon is lodged
Which appears below the ear and comes out at the chin,
And it shatters the sinews of those in front.
And when the country was in a plight,
The cannon penetrated deeply,
It penetrated and calmed things down.

(Traditional poetry)

"Poem of Alienation"

- (b) This is not yet my poem
the poem of my soul and of my blood
no
I still lack knowledge and power to write my poem
the great poem I feel turning in me

My poem wanders aimlessly
in the bush or in the city
in the voice of the wind
in the surge of the sea
in the Aspect and the Being

My poem steps outside
wrapped in the showy cloths
selling itself
selling
"lemons, buy my le-e-e-mond"

My poem runs through the streets
with a putrid cloth pad on its head
offering itself
offering
"mackerel, sardine, sprats
Fine fish, fine fi-i-ish...!"

(Antonio Jacinto)

SECTION B

2. With close reference to the works of two Western and two African critics, say whether, in your view, there is really a relationship between poetry/literature and the artist/poet. Illustrate your answer with examples. (20 marks)
3. Using three notable critics/poets, say why it was necessary for the Romantics to revolt against the Augustans. (20 marks)

SECTION C

4. What does the term "genre" denote? Discuss the distinguishing features of the lyric and epic. (20 marks)
5. Assess the contributions of Plato and Aristotle to literary theory and criticism. (20 marks)
6. Using relevant examples where necessary, critically examine the concerns of literary theorists. (20 marks)