

BOWEN UNIVERSITY, IWO, OSUN STATE

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

2018/2019 FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

COURSE CODE: ENG 414

TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS

COURSE TITLE: AFRICAN PROSE FICTION

DATE: DECEMBER, 2018

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

1. **Either: (a)** "Amos Tutuola's *The Palm-wine Drinkard* is a classic African novel." Examine this opinion with reference to the themes, setting and narrative techniques of the text. (30 marks)
Or: (b) "Writers of the Negritude movement seek a recovery of a certain spiritual integrity: a definition of a black collective identity and a new world view derived from a new feeling for the African heritage of values and of experience." Critically comment on this statement, using Camara Laye's *The Radiance of the King* and Cheikh Hamidou Kane's *Ambiguous Adventure* as literary platforms. (30 marks)

SECTION A

2. **Either: (a)** Comment on Ayi Kwei Armah's *The Beautiful Ones are Not Yet Born* and Dambudzo Marechera's *House of Hunger* as novels of disenchantment. (20 marks)
Or: (b) Examine the gothic and spiritual elements in Thomas Mofolo's *Chaka*, illustrating your answer with relevant examples. (20 marks)
3. Critically comment on Olayinka Abimbola Egbokhare's *Dazzling Mirage* as a contemporary contribution to African Prose Fiction. Illustrate your answer with examples. (20 marks)

SECTION B

4. Compare and contrast the cultural architectures of Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* and Amos Tutuola's *The Palm-wine Drinkard*. (20 marks)
5. How does *Mine Boy* by Peter Abrahams give us a glimpse into the socio-cultural and political context of apartheid South Africa? (20 marks)
6. In a well written essay, examine the connection between childhood and adulthood in the life of the protagonist of Bessie Head's *A Question of Power*. (20 marks)