

Greenbury Secondary School

Third Quarterly Test – 2015

Grade : 11

Marks : 35

Examiner : G. Munisamy

Date : 28 September 2015

Duration : 1 Hour

Moderator : L. Gopalan

**INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION**

1. This question paper consists of TWO questions  
 QUESTION 1 – Poetry (Prescribed)  
 QUESTION 2 – Novel (Essay)
2. Answer all the questions.
3. The ESSAY question should be answered in 400 – 450 words (Approximately 2 pages).
4. Number your answers correctly. Aim for conciseness and relevance.
5. Write neatly and legibly.

**QUESTION 1 – PRESCRIBED POETRY**

Read the following poem carefully and answer the questions set.

**Follower**

My father worked with a horse-plough,  
 His shoulders globed like a full sail strung  
 Between the shafts and the furrow.  
 The horses strained at his clicking tongue.

An expert, He would set the wing 5  
 And fit the bright steel-pointed sock.  
 The sod rolled over without breaking.  
 At the headrig, with a single pluck

Of reins, the sweating team turned round 10  
 And back into the land. His eye  
 Narrowed and angled at the ground,  
 Mapping the furrow exactly.

I stumbled in his hob-nailed wake,  
 Fell sometimes on the polished sod;  
 Sometimes he rode me on his back 15  
 Dipping and rising to his plod.

I want to grow up and plough,  
 To close one eye, stiffen my arm.  
 All I ever did was follow  
 In his broad shadow round the farm. 20

I was a nuisance, tripping, falling,  
 Yapping always. But today  
 It is my father who keeps stumbling  
 Behind me, and will not go away.

- 1.1 Explain clearly the suitability of the title "follower". (3)
- 1.2 Comment on the impact of the short sentence "An expert" (line 5). (2)
- 1.3 What is the figurative meaning of line 13: "I stumbled in his hob-nailed wake"? (2)
- 1.4 Refer to lines 19-20: "All I ever did was follow in his broad shadow."  
Show how these lines contribute to the central idea of the poem. (3)
- [10]

**QUESTION 2 – NOVEL: ESSAY**

Babamukuru is a man worthy of admiration.

By making specific reference to at least **THREE** highlights in "Nervous Conditions", critically discuss the extent to which you agree with this statement.

Your response should take the form of a well – constructed essay of 400 – 450 words (approximately 2 pages).

[25]

**TOTAL: 35**

  
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## SUGGESTED ANSWERS

1.1 Firstly, as a child the speaker literally followed his father around the farm. Secondly, he wishes to grow up and follow in his father's footsteps and be a strong, expert farmer. Thirdly, his father grows old and takes to following his son in a position of dependence. Finally, in the natural cycle of life, childhood and dependence is followed by adulthood and independence and then old age and dependence.

Any 2 well explained.

(1.5x2) (3)

1.2 The short, precise statement carries a strong punch thereby conveying the idea effectively with no room for doubt. It captures the speaker's tone of conviction and feelings of admiration, pride and respect which appears sincere by the simplicity of the statement which requires no explanation.

Any 1 point explained.

(2)

1.3 "Mapping" supports the idea that his father was indeed an expert for he created furrows with great precision after much planning, like the lines on a map which are not random but carefully and meaningfully plotted.

(2)

1.4 In the end, the speaker/son fails to live up to his father's standards as he is impatient, irritated and annoyed by his father's need of him. Thus, the son does remain in the "shadow" proving to be less of a man than his father who as the better man was indeed "broad". Furthermore, unlike the father, the speaker failed to lead/ to take charge and take care of his loved one when he was in need. Thus, he remained a follower proving yet again that all he "ever did was follow".

Answer must engage with the idea of "shadow", "broad" and "follow" (include "all")

1+1+1 (3)

[10]

## QUESTION2 – ESSAY

### Some Guidelines

Essay may take a particular position (for or against) or evaluate Babamukuru's strengths and weaknesses to indicate those aspects which are considered admirable and those which are not.

Accept any well – supported position with reference to specifics in the text.

Babamukuru – Benevolent brother, uncle, family man : Provides for extended family, sacrifices own immediate family : time, money, etc. Pays for Nhamo's + Tambu's education; brings goodies to farm to ensure a feast on days of significance + celebration. Drives both Nhamo + Tambu home and to mission despite inconvenience to self.

Committed to his role as patriarch thus makes sacrifices to fulfil his responsibilities.

Rose from utter poverty to become a Master's graduate holding a powerful position as headmaster of a mission school. Earns a good reputation and respect of community and as an administrator.

Remains humble despite status, money, power, education – not averse to working in the fields when need arises.

#### AND/OR

Dutiful Patriarch and not benevolent therefore sharing is limited to special occasions whereas in his own home his family feast daily with a laden table and shillings for children to spend freely on luxuries while on the farm meals are limited to sadza and meat is seldom enjoyed. Women often ate the leftovers which was barely anything.

Commitment to tradition blinded him to the realities. Holds Maiguru in a position of subservience requiring her servitude despite her equal qualifications and earning power. As an educated man with experience living in England, he fails to respect his wife's voice (her opinions don't matter both as his wife – spending of money and in raising their children : Nyasha's choice of books, clothing, freedom to enjoy youthful activities etc)

Fails to understand his daughter because he refuses to listen. Allows pride to control his behaviour eg. Slaps Nyasha because he sees her as a reflection of him; destroying his reputation by "walking about" and "dancing" with boys. Educated but stoops to level of primitive man in accusing child of being a "whore" and emotionally, psychologically and physically abusing her.

Allows pride to over – ride reason.

Does not address their "hybrid" status.

Pushes daughter too far – anorexic.

Family dysfunctional but refuses to admit his part in it and address it accordingly. (Chido's refusal to come home and slowly growing distance; Maiguru's repressed feelings of frustration and dissatisfaction revealed in comments about Baba's lack of availability to her and family eg. Cannot shop for groceries.)

**ESSAY MUST INCLUDE BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO POINTS HIGHLIGHTED.**

**[25]**