

END OF TERM 1 ASSESSMENT

S3 LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

1 Hour 15 minutes

Attempt all questions

1. Read the following extract carefully

MUTUMO:

My wives,

You have to take charge

Since my sons have taken the cattle in the search of water.

I am going to visit my friend Mwamba

Let you also taste

Let you also feel

The burdens and pleasures of presiding over a household.

NYABWANGU (*springing up*)

Am going with my lord? Shall I accompany him to visit Mwamba?

(The others grunt with disgust and Mutumo ignores her)

MUTUMO

My first wife

And the mother-of-the-home, Ndiinga,

Shall take charge of everything while I am gone.

(Ndiinga bows her head in acknowledgement)

She wields the power of command

She is endowed with the wisdom

She has the fibre

To be head in my absence.

NYABWANGU (*springing up again*)

But my lord, I thought I should be the one to take charge

Since I am active and young.

But the mother-of-the-home is too old

And will not be able to control things. *(Again other people show disgust)*

MUTUMO

The-mother-of-the home shall take charge of everything. *(pause)*

While I'm gone you may do anything you want

But in consultation with the mother-of-the-home

It is said that when the cat is away the mice can play.

(There is some giggling here and Mutumo puts up a hand to stop it)

FOR MORE PAST PAPERS, LESSON NOTES, AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS VISIT

www.mutoonline.com 1

While I am gone you may play whatever games you want

You may sit on my stool (*Here the company registers shock*)

You may drink from my milk pot,

You may go where I squat for nature's call.

The women may eat chicken (*Shock registered*) Yes, they may even eat eggs

You may eat anything that your stomach may desire (*Pause. Mutumo paces up and down*)

Listen very carefully. There's one thing you must never do. (*speaks very slowly and emphatically*)

If my cow Kajeru should die, do not eat her- not even lick a drop of her blood. (*pause*)

Bury her. Bury her as we buried my father. Bury her as we buried the dead.

Bury her with barkcloth around her carcass . Bury her with drum and pipe sounding.

(*Pause. He walks up and down*)It is said that a blade of grass which wants to smear you with refuse keeps rising up as you excrete. Beware of such grasses. I know some of you are rash.

(*Fixes his eye on Nyabwangu*)

NYABWANGU: My lord now hates me. Whatever I do is bad in his eyes. Am I the only rash person here?I know the cause of this hatred and I will know how to deal with it.

Respond to the following tasks using the text

- a. What kind of family head is Mutumo? (06)
 - b. Explain the feelings Nyabwangu brings out in you. (04)
 - c. Through the extract, the playwright teaches the audience lessons about leadership. Explain them. (06)
 - d. Explain what people in your community should do to ensure harmony in their families. (06)
2. Read the following poem carefully

The Irresponsible Student

If you only knew
the horror that is wine
you would curse it.
they taught you to sing to the flute
they taught you to lament to the shepherd's reed*;
they taught you to recite to the harp*
they taught you to sing praises to the zither.*

You sit in the bar
sit between harlots;
you want to be aggressive.
You sit between the girls
steeped in fragrant ointment*
a wreath of flowers around your neck—
you are drumming on your belly..

You sway, you fall on your face,
You are covered in dirt.

* flute, reed, harp, zither : musical instruments,
fragrant ointment : sweet - smelling oil

Questions

- (a) Explain the advice you would give the student in the poem if you were the speaker. (06)
- (b) What is your reaction to the poet's message? Explain your answer. (04)
- (c) With reference to what happens in your society, explain the consequences of irresponsible behaviour.(08)
- (d) Explain the speaker's feelings. (04)

END