

Students Name:

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LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

PAPER 1

JULY/AUGUST 2025

2 HOURS



HES MOCK EXAMINATIONS 2025

UGANDA CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

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INSTRUCTIONS

- This paper consists of three examination items.
- It has two sections, A and B. Section A is compulsory.
- There are two examination items in section B. Answer one item.
- Answer two examination items in all.

SECTION A

1. Read the passage below and answer the tasks that follow.

As Margaret walked about barefoot in the compound the tiny stones in the sand pricked her feet. It was hard to bear because her feet were in fact too tender. But if she was to stay here, she resolved to regard hardship as part and parcel of life, and, not feel so strongly about it. It was difficult to presume what the little children admired in Margaret, for wherever she went they followed her slowly from a little distance,

‘Stop!’ Lucy shouted at them, ‘Why do you walk about after somebody in that manner? Are you mad? GO and sit down!’ she commanded furiously

‘Aaa — Lucy,’ Margaret chided with soft laughter, ‘don’t mind about them. Do not stop them.’ It was exactly the way Christ reprimanded those arrogant disciples we read about in the Bible. The little children Onaeng, Ebong and Opolo had distanced themselves as a result of Lucy’s threat. Margaret encouraged them to get near to her. Come, she said opening her arms invitingly. The three children came along slowly, each fixing an eye on the little girl Lucy.

The water heated, Margaret washed the three dirty children clean. Each of them smiled with the innermost joy as Margaret did the job. Margaret took them into the hut allotted to her. They laughed happily when Lucy told them that Margaret would buy them some clothes.

What is this, Mother?’ One of them asked, pointing at a bottle of deodorant on the table. Margaret was amused. She did not understand why the child addressed her as mother.

‘Oh my child,’ she replied happily, ‘this is called moo. Do you know moo?’ Moo is a Luo word which may mean "oil" or "lotion."

'It is this one,' the child answered, confidently pointing at the bottle. She sprayed their bodies with the perfume and dismissed them after kissing them all on the cheek. The three children almost went wild with ecstasy. The sweet fragrance of the deodorant made them go about sniffing the air the way male goats do when mating. Perhaps they thought the sweet smell was being propelled by some atmospheric winds and now they wanted to catch the source.

'Lucy,' she said, 'would you mind getting for me a hoe if any is left.' She addressed Lucy so obediently as if Lucy was her superior. The little girl wanted to tell Margaret to stop it, but she could not get the courage. She went into the hut and brought a hoe. If Lucy had been an adult, she would have denied Margaret this work, for in the tradition of Bungatira people, a visitor was not supposed to be given work within the first three days of her visit. But Lucy was only a young girl, and so she did not take into account that custom. Margaret handled the small hoe in a way which was quite spectacular. The way she handled the hoe also showed that she had never tried hoeing.

'Aaa-wuuu,' the young women who had drawn water and were now going back laughed out sardonically. 'Let nobody tell me of a woman uying to buy her place in a home full of cows,' one of them mocked. 'Hmm — I who was young — I whom Opio wooed and married with several cows — was the way I handled a hoe? Hei-it doesn't shake the hem of my skirt.' As they talked, balancing their pots on their heads, they faced Margaret directly and their mood reflected animosity. Margaret could read it from the way they stared at her.

'How are you my friends?' she greeted in the native language.

'Eel Ee! don't fool us,' one of them fumed. 'You greet us how are you, do we look after your goats?' Margaret felt small. She just smiled and looked down shyly, Lucy was murmuring some insults against Margaret's assailants, for in spite of the rest of the people's contempt, Lucy and the

three little children found themselves irresistibly drawn to Margaret's manners.

Tasks

- a) Setting in literary works significantly impacts the plot by influencing the actions of the characters, and shaping events. With illustrations, identify the physical setting that has determined the cause of actions in the passage.
- b) People's actions are the basis for how they are perceived, evaluated and judged by others. Describe the character of Margaret as brought in this passage.
- c) A lot of people often raise issues when they have concerns, complaints they want to address or even resolve. This has empowered different authors to express their concerns in their literary works. With illustrations, explain at least three concerns in this passage.
- d) Expressing feelings is a crucial part in building relationships and understanding oneself. Describe the feelings of young women towards Margaret.
- e) Techniques go beyond the surface level of a story. They convey deeper meaning and making the story more memorable. Identify and explain the techniques the writer has used in the passage.

SECTION B

Choose one item from this section and illustrate your answer by using any of the following texts studied in the course.

- William Shakespeare: The Merchant of Venice
- Francis Imbuga: The Return of Mgofu
- John Steinbeck: The Pearl
- Lawrence Darmani: Grief Child
- Sylvester Onzivua: The Heart Soothers
- Okia Okoitia Omtatah: Voice of The People
- Victor Byabamazima: Shadows Of Time

- Chinua Achebe: Things Fall Apart
- Daniel Mengara: Mema
- David Rubadiri: Growing Up With Poetry
- A.D. Amateshe: An Anthology Of East African Poetry

ITEM 2

Either

Undoubtedly, literary works have revealed that life is a gift but if unveiled, there are always some ups and downs. It is a little saddened that these misfortunes have no age. These setbacks have wounded the young and the old. This bittersweet life has exposed all the challenges that if powerless, you're shattered. In reference to any literature set book studied on the course, describe the different problems that the main characters experience.

Or.

"No one is perfect" is one of the most recognized sentiments in the world but however, the darkest side of the people has overwhelmed the bright side. The hearts of men have been consumed by envy and bitterness.

The more the world gleams, the more un content and selfish people have become. They have turned against their loved ones. This therefore has enlightened a lot of authors to create and mirror the society in their literary works. They have come up with characters to portray the different weaknesses that dwells among people. With illustrations, refer to any set book studied on the course and reveal the flaws that have weakened humanity.

END

