INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Candidates are requested to write legibly

This paper consists of 8 pages. Please ensure that you have them all
SECTION A - DRAMA

All students must answer EITHER SECTION A OR SECTION B. SECTION C IS COMPULSORY.

Students must answer ONE question from this section for 50 marks

_Death and the King's Horseman_

**Question 1**

Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow as fully as you can.

_A figure emerges from the shadows, a young black man dressed in a sober western suit. He peeps into the hall, trying to make out the figures of the dancers._

**Jane** Who is that?

**Olunde** (emerges into the light) I didn't mean to startle you madam. I am looking for the District Officer.

**Jane** Wait a minute ... don't I know you? Yes, you are Olunde, the young man who ...

**Olunde** Mrs Pilkings! How fortunate. I came here to look for your husband.


**Olunde** You are ... well, you look quite well yourself Mrs Pilkings. From what little I can see of you.

**Jane** Oh, this. It's caused quite a stir I assure you, and not all of it very pleasant. You are not shocked I hope?

**Olunde** Why should I be? But don't you find it rather hot in there? Your skin must find it difficult to breathe . .

**Jane** Well, it is a little hot I must confess, but it's all in a good cause.

**Olunde** What cause Mrs Pilkings?
Jane Oh. So you've returned with a chip on your shoulder. That's a pity Olunde. I am sorry.

An uncomfortable silence follows.

I take it then that you did not find you stay in England altogether edifying.

Olunde I don't say that. I found your people quite admirable in many ways, their conduct and courage in this war for instance.

Jane Ah yes, the war. Here of course it is all rather remote. From time to time we have a black-out drill just to remind us that there is a war on. And the rare convoy passes through on its way somewhere or on manoeuvres. Mind you there is the occasional bit of excitement like that ship that was blown up in the harbour.

Olunde Here? Do you mean through enemy action?

Jane Oh no, the war hasn't come that close. The captain did it himself. I don't quite understand it really. Simon tried to explain. The ship had to be blown up because it had become dangerous to other ships, even to the city itself. Hundreds of the coastal population would have died.

Olunde Maybe it was loaded with ammunition and had caught fire. Or some of those lethal gases they've been experimenting on.

Jane Something like that. The captain blew himself up with it. Deliberately. Simon said someone had to remain on board to light the fuse.

Olunde It must have been a very short fuse.

Jane (shrugs) I don't know much about it. Only that there was no other way to save lives. No time to devise anything else. The captain took the decision and
Olunde Yes... I quite believe it. I met men like that in England.

Jane Oh just look at me! Fancy welcoming you back with such morbid news. Stale too. It was at least six months ago.

Olunde I don't find it morbid at all. I find it rather inspiring. It is an affirmative commentary on life.

Jane What is?

Olunde That captain's self-sacrifice.

Jane Nonsense. Life should never be thrown deliberately away.

Olunde And the innocent people around the harbour?

Jane Oh, how does one know? The whole thing was probably exaggerated anyway.

[......]

Olunde Mrs Pilkings, I came home to bury my father. As soon as I heard the news I booked my passage home. In fact we were fortunate. We travelled in the same convoy as your Prince, so we had excellent protection.

Jane But you don't think your father is also entitled to whatever protection is available to him?

Olunde How can I make you understand? He has protection. No one can undertake what he does tonight without the deepest protection the mind can conceive. What can you offer him in place of his peace of mind, in place of the honour and veneration of his own people? What would you think of your Prince if he refused to accept the risk of losing his life on this voyage? This ... showing-the-flag tour of colonial possessions.

Jane I see. So it isn't just medicine you studied in England.

Olunde Yet another error into which your people fall. You believe that everything which appears to make sense was learnt from you.

Jane Not so fast Olunde. You have learnt to argue I can tell that, but I never said you made sense. However clearly you try to put it, it is still a barbaric custom. It is even worse – it's feudal! The King dies and a chieftain must be buried with him. How feudalistic can you get!

[......]

Olunde Others would call it decadence. However, it doesn't really interest me. You white races know how to survive; I've seen proof of that. By all logical and natural laws this war should end with all the white races wiping out one another, wiping out their so-called civilisation for all time and reverting to a state of primitivism the like of which has so far only existed in your imagination when you thought of us. I thought all that at the beginning. Then I slowly realised that your greatest art is the art of survival. But at least have the humility to let others survive in their own way.

Jane Through ritual suicide?

Olunde Is that worse than mass suicide? Mrs Pilkings, what do you call what those young men are sent to do by their generals in this war? Of course you have also mastered the art of calling things by names which don't remotely describe them.

[......]

Jane (hesitantly) Was it the ... colour thing? I know there is some discrimination.

Olunde Don't make it so simple, Mrs Pilkings. You make it sound as if when I left, I took nothing at all with me.
1. Briefly contextualize the extract above within the broad context of the play by outlining significant events that lead to the one dramatized in the extract.
   (5)

2. Briefly explain the symbolism in the introduction of Olude in the stage directions. (5)

3. What does the above extract tell us about Olunde’s character portrayal? Discuss quoting specific words or phrases to support your views. (10)

4. “Jane Pilkings in this extract and throughout the play is depicted as a character who is not aware of contradictions she makes about her own cultural practices versus those of the natives of Oyo.”

   To what extent would you agree with the above statement? Discuss making references to the extract and the text as whole. (10)

5. Refer to Olunde’s speech beginning with “How can I make you understand?....” Discuss what Olunde’s words suggest about the importance of Elesin’s death and about the theme of reclaiming history and culture in the play. (20)

Question 2

“In Death and the King’s Horseman Soyinka explores the power of human will and also examines the difficulties of reconciling hedonism or self-indulgence and earthly power with the resolve to serve one’s community through conscious sacrifice.”

In a well thought-out essay discuss the extent to which you agree with this statement. Make constant references to key scenes in the play to support and illustrate your response. [50]

Question 3

“In Death and the King’s Horseman the concept of honour is inextricably linked with death.”

In an essay of NOT more than 4 pages, discuss the manner in which honour and death are treated in the play. Your response should also make references to how and why death is connected to honour. You are required to cite specific examples from the play to support your view. [50]
SECTION B – POETRY

All students must answer EITHER SECTION A OR SECTION B. SECTION C IS COMPULSORY.

Answer TWO out of the following three questions

2. (a)
“The Tenant” by Na Ngulube

There is no room for you in my heart. The only tenant who ever lived there left some luggage behind.

I didn’t even evict her. She simply left without a word.

I keep hoping she will come back and collect the luggage or at least arrange for disposal, clean out the place, throw out old memories.

I could possibly live with the marks on the walls. Some are completely indelible some I even like.

But you see I am afraid that if it all goes, what will I do with all that empty space?

Question:
Write an essay of approximately one and a half pages in which you critically discuss the poet’s use of the element of Space. Pay particular attention to Ngulube’s extended metaphor of the room and of tenancy in the poem.
Quote directly from the poem to support and explain your argument. Use complete sentences with the correct punctuation. [25 marks]
2. (b)
“General, that Tank of Yours is Quite a Car” by Bertolt Brecht

General, that tank of yours is quite a car.
It flattens a wood and grinds a hundred men to pulp.
But it’s got one snag:
It needs a driver.

General, that bomber of yours is quite something.
It flies faster than a storm and carries more than an elephant.
But it’s got one snag:
It needs a mechanic.

General, man is very useful.
He can fly, and he can kill.
But he’s got one snag.
He can think.

Question:
Write an essay of about one and a half pages in which you critically analyse the
element of Tone in this poem. How would you describe the Tone in this poem?
Why does the poet make use of this particular Tone? What do you think his
purpose is?
Quote directly from the poem to support and explain your argument.
Use complete sentences with the correct punctuation.

[25 marks]
“Postpartum” by Hiromi Ito

Childbirth was not dying nor defecating  
Childbirth was just a very painful period  
For the thirty-seven hours from beginning to end  
I kept on bleeding just as if  
I were having my period  
I wanted to change my maxi pad, change it right away  
I was constantly aware of my anus but  
I knew I didn’t have to defecate  
The pain was unpleasant  
The pain was unpleasant  
Dying is unpleasant  
Unpleasant  

April 30, 9:47 am, a baby girl  
3,650 grams, 51 centimetres  

After twenty-four hours have passed, the newborn is brought from the nursery and allowed to be with the mother. A bed for the newborn is placed to the side of the mother’s bed, but everyone puts their baby in the bed with them and sleeps next to it. The bed for the newborn is so high that unless the mother lifts herself up, she cannot see it.

My baby kept vomiting amniotic fluid in the nursery  
May 1, 9:47 am, twenty-four hours had gone by, but there she stayed  
May 1, the afternoon goes by and still no baby  
May 2, the whole day goes by and still no baby  
May 3, the whole morning and still no baby  

There is no baby  

Anywhere  

I haven’t started lactating, of course  

May 3, 1 pm, the baby arrived  
And has existed ever since  

Question:  
The poet shifts the Tone and mode of Address (the way she speaks to the reader) in this poem several times. Write an essay of about one and a half pages in which you critically analyse the differences in Tone between the various parts
of the poem. In your discussion you must also consider the poetic reasons for these changes and what their effects are upon the poem.

SECTION C – PROSE – (COMPULSORY)

Answer all 3 questions from this section. Students are allowed to refer to the novel One Hand Washes The Other by Christopher Nicholson in the examination.

Question 1
Write an essay in which you critically examine the central motif of AMBIDEXTERITY in the novel One Hand Washes The Other by Christopher Nicholson. (30)

Question 2
Write an essay of no less than ONE page in which you discuss the symbolism of music in the novel. (10)

Question 3
Write an essay of no less than ONE page in which you discuss the symbolism of flowers in the novel. (10)