

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts

Special Degree Examination in Arts (English), Year 4, Semester 2, 2018

ENG 4277 – Postcolonial African Writing

Two Hours

Answer any TWO (02) questions. Question 3 is an OPEN BOOK question.

1. *Either*

- a) What are the connections established between the concept of leadership and the role of the intellectual in an emerging postcolonial African state? Discuss with detailed reference to Chinua Achebe's *Anthills of the Savannah*.

Or

- b) Chinua Achebe's *Anthills of the Savannah* provides insight into a postcolonial predicament marked by "disillusionment and despair." Is this a fair assessment of Achebe's novel? Support your argument through a close reading of the text.

2. *Either*

- a) "In the 2000s the generic postcolonial writer is more likely to be a cultural traveller, or an 'extra-territorial', than a national. [...] she or he works within the precincts of the Western metropolis while at the same time retaining the thematic and/or political connections with a national, ethnic, or regional background." How applicable is this statement to Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Half of a Yellow Sun*? Discuss with detailed reference to the text.

Or

- b) With detailed reference to the text, discuss the significance of polyvocality as a narrative strategy in envisioning "a wide-ranging and egalitarian society" in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Half of a Yellow Sun*.

3. OPEN BOOK QUESTION

Either

- a) Respond to Jeremy Cronin's assertion that "Poetry should [...] become a full citizen of the new South Africa; it should not have to choose always between either the street or the study (both forms of exclusion and marginalisation in their different ways). Poetry should also occupy the town hall." Make reference to **three** South African poems that you have studied for this course in your response to this question.

Or

- b) Critically engage with **three** South African poems that you have read in response to Kelwyn Sole's suggestion that South African poets should "aim their expression at people without a political home, maybe even without a home, restless people."
