



EXAMINATION NO.: _____
THE MALAWI NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS BOARD
2019 MALAWI SCHOOL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION

ENGLISH

Subject Number: M052/III

Time Allowed: 2 hours
2:00 – 4:00 pm

Thursday, 27 June

PAPER III **(70 marks)**

Instructions

- 1. This paper contains 11 printed pages. Please check.**
- 2. This paper has two sections.**
 - a. Section A contains two compulsory contextual questions. Therefore, you are required to answer both questions in this section in the spaces provided.**
 - b. Section B comprises essay questions. Answer one question on each book on the lined answer sheets on pages 9 to 12.**
- 3. You should spend the first 10 minutes reading all the questions and planning your answers to the questions you choose.**
- 4. Fill in your Examination Number at the top of each page of the question paper.**
- 5. In the table provided on this page, tick against the question number you have answered.**

Question Number	Tick if answered	Do not write in these columns		Marker's name
1				
2				
3				
4				

Section A (30 marks)**Answer both questions****1. POEM****Sweet Brew at Chitakale**

The old woman squats before a clay jar of Thobwa
She uncovers the basket lid from the pregnant jar and
Stirs attention with a gourdful of the brew

The customers have all been here; cyclists
In dripping sweat have deposited their coins
Like players in a poker game
In the basket gulping down their share
For the game that seemed so fair

Pedestrians on various chores have talked
Before the exchange and then cooled their
Parched throats to their money's worth

But this bus passenger bellows for a gourdful
From the window, drinks deliberately slowly
As if he is a chameleon, until
The conductor presses the go-button

The woman picks up the pieces of her broken
Gourd and dusting her bottom, again squats
Confronting her brew with a borrowed cup

(Slightly adapted from: *Of Chameleon and Gods* by Jack Mapanje)

Continued/...

1. (Continued)

Questions

- a. Who is the persona in the poem?

_____ (1 mark)

- b. Describe the character of each of the following individuals in the poem:

- (i) the old woman

_____ (2 marks)

- (ii) the passenger in the bus

_____ (2 marks)

- c. What figure of speech is depicted by the expression "from the pregnant jar"?

_____ (1 mark)

- d. Pick out any two similes from the poem.

_____ (2 marks)

- e. (i) What is the geographical setting of the poem?

_____ (1 mark)

- (ii) Justify your answer to e (i) above.

_____ (2 marks)

- f. Describe any two themes portrayed in the poem.

(i) _____ (2 marks)

(ii) _____ (2 marks)

Continued/...

2. SHORT STORY

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

THE WITCH

It was after several days that the gong-gong was beaten in the late afternoon and the whole town was called to assemble outside the chief's house. The crowd was large and I climbed up a very high tree and seated in the swaying branches; I watched the whole scene.

The chief emerged. He was a middle-aged man dressed in glowing *kente* cloth, gold crown on his head and sandals. He was accompanied by his horn blower and interpreter bearing his staff of office and elders of the town. A small boy of my own age carried the royal stool and another walked in front of the chief, acknowledging on his behalf the greetings from the crowd. The chief and his party sat down.

Then came the fetish priest, tall, naked to the waist and his assistants. Some of these were children too. Little girls in white skirts and their bodies smeared with white clay and covered with strings of white cowrie shells.

The priest stationed himself by an altar that had been set up in the compound and poured a libation to the god asking that the truth might be revealed.

Another group then came from the chief's house and in the center of it were three women. Their clothes were torn and they stumbled and wept. Obviously they had been roughly treated. Two were old and ugly. The other was about my mother's age, plump and comely. They were the occupants of Tona's coffin house.

Continued/...

2. (Continued)

They all denied that they had killed the girl. The crowd began to jeer them and threaten them. A few stones were thrown but the chief ordered the people to be still.

Three cocks were brought and given to the priest's assistants. The first old lady was brought before the altar and warned to speak the truth or the god would surely kill her. She threw herself on her knees and swore that she was not a witch. The priest took the first cock and with a sharp knife cut its throat half way across. Then he threw it on the ground. Amid a breathless silence the cock struggled to its feet, ran a few steps, collapsed and died on its back, its breast uppermost. The crowd roared. The god had accepted the woman's answer. She had spoken the truth. She was innocent and free. She fell sobbing on the ground until her friends came and helped her to her feet.

The second old woman was brought forward. She denied that she was a witch and the same ritual followed. Her cock too died on its back and the god acknowledged her innocence.

The crowd grew restless as the third woman was brought forward. An angry muttering prevented me from hearing what the woman answered. The priest took the cock in his hand but then paused and in a loud and stern voice, which silenced the crowd, cried; "Take care woman what you do! If you are guilty, the god will surely reveal it by killing you". The woman stood upright and looked proud and defiant. The priest took up his knife but before he had time to use it the woman fell to the ground her limbs twitching and foam coming from her mouth. The crowd roared. The priest put down the knife and let the cock flutter away. Then trembling, she confessed that she was a witch. She was strongly advised by the priest to confess all her crimes.

Continued/...

Questions

- a. Describe the geographical setting of the story.

(2 marks)

- b. Describe the character portrayed by each of the following
(i) the crowd

(2 marks)

- (ii) the chief

(2 marks)

- c. In what point of view is the story told?

(1 mark)

- d. Explain any **two** themes that are portrayed in the story.

(i) _____

(2 marks)

(ii) _____

(2 marks)

- e. What evidence shows that the chief is greatly respected?

(2 marks)

- f. Discuss the poetic justice in the story.

(2 marks)

Continued/...

SECTION B (40 MARKS)

Answer **both** questions in this section on the spaces provided. Choose either question **a** or **b** in each case and **not both**.

3. THE PEARL by John Steinbeck**EITHER**

- (a) Discuss how the following themes are portrayed in the book "The Pearl"
- (i) Hope
 - (ii) Poverty
- (20 marks)**

OR

- (b) Discuss **eight** points that show how the theme of greed is portrayed in the book 'The Pearl'. **(20 marks)**

4. MACBETH by William Shakespeare**EITHER**

- (a) To what extent are the following responsible for influencing Macbeth to do evil?
- (i) Lady Macbeth (discuss **four** points)
 - (ii) the witches (discuss **four** points)

OR

- (b) The play "Macbeth" is about power struggle. Discuss. **(20 marks)**

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Lined area for writing answers.

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END OF QUESTION PAPER

NB: This paper contains 11 printed pages.