

FOCUS A365

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FORM 4 TERM 2 ENGLISH EXAMINATIONS 2018

NAME: _____ ADM NO: _____ CLASS: _____

COMPREHENSION

Read the following passage and then answer the questions that follow.

Unscrupulous as he was, Kwame Asante had a qualm as he looked at the woman sitting on the African stool near the bed. He had called her and yet when she came he did not quite know how to begin the conversation.

“Akosua, how would you like fifty pounds to start a small business of your own – selling cloths or perfume and powder?” The woman smiled nervously. Ten years of married life had made her wary of her husband’s fits of generosity.

She was as black as ebony, with the fine features peculiar to the girls of the Akwapim hills; graceful in her brown and red design cloth and the lovely silk head-tie wrapped round her head. Her feet were shod in ‘spitfire’ sandals and on her tiny ears she had the popular golden ear-rings named ‘Abongo’.

The slender woman on the stool was the mother of three children though she still looked a girl. Married under the native customary law, she had served her lord and master with zeal and zest. It is a law which as some other law in the Gold Coast, needs disinfecting for though it aids the man to gain his desire when it is at its fiercest, it in no way safeguards the position of the woman when the man’s passion abates.

“Would you like fifty pounds?” asked Kwame again. “Could make it a hundred. You have been a very good wife to me, Akosua.” Did the truth begin to dawn on the woman’s consciousness? No. She thrust the thought away from her. ‘He could not do it’.

Kwame cleared his throat – after all he might as well get it off his chest: hadn’t she noticed that the whole relationship had become impossible? A cloth woman was all right when one was young and struggling. She could be so useful – a general servant, and yet a wife. Akosua was so gentle, and even quite refined, but a man needs a change. He had just completed his two-storied building and he had been made a committee member of an important club. The other day his academy had conferred on him an associateship and his university had given him a coveted degree. He had at last achieved his ambition and had become an important man in the community. He was thinking seriously of entering the town council.

Fancy being addressed councilor Kwame Asante, O.B.A.... A.S.S. He smiled inanely to himself. Akosua looked at him in wonder.

“Er..... er.... Akosua....., I want to tell you I am going to marry a lady; you will be paid off with a hundred pounds. A.... frock..... lady....um.....er of course you can read and write Ga and Twi but my friends will call you an illiterate woman.”

“Did you consult your friends before you married me ten years ago?” The voice was cold and calm, yet the words cut like a whip.

“If you are going to be impertinent, I shall not discuss the matter further.” He got up and walked up and down the room. “How many men in the Gold Coast will pay a woman off with one hundred pounds? You are only entitled to twenty-five pounds and here I am out of kindness offering you a hundred. Show some gratitude, Akosua.” Akosua looked at him. Stark misery was in her eyes.

“I shall send the children to Achimota College.” There was a whining note in his voice. “I am only doing this because of my position in society. You see I may be called to Government House and other important places..... say something Akosua.

“I say you can keep your twenty five pounds, fifty pounds or a hundred pounds. I will have nothing to do with it. I will not be paid off.

“What! What! Come! Come! Don’t do anything rush!”

“If you dare touch me I shall strike your face.”

“Strike your master, your husband! Are you mad?”

“I shall leave this house.”

“If you dare to disgrace me by leaving the house before I am ready for you to go, there will be trouble. I do not intend to put up with a willful woman. What is my sin after all? I only want to become a decent and respectable member of society. If you leave this house without my knowledge and permission, I shall claim every penny I have spent on you since I married and lived with you these ten years; and not only that but I shall claim all the presents I have given to your parents and other relatives. You know our native customary law.”

“Yes, I know your native customary law. It is a grave to bury women alive whilst you men dance to the tom-tom on top of the mound of earth.”

Questions

- i) Why does Akosua smile nervously when Kwame offers her fifty pounds to start a small business of her own? (2mks)

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- ii) Explain the effect of Akosua’s silence on Kwame? (2mks)

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iii) In not more than 60 words, summarize the reasons for Kwame’s intention to marry another wife. (4mks)

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v) Identify a statement from the passage which proves that Kwame was ashamed of the action he was about to take. (1mk)

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vi) What is Kwame Asante’s burning ambition? (1mks)

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vii) Rewrite the following sentence in reported speech
‘Did you consult your friends before you married me ten years ago?’ Akosua asked Kwame.
(1 mks)

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viii) Give an instance of irony in the passage. (2mks)

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ix) *'It is a grave to bury women alive whilst you men dance to the tom-tom on top of the grave.'*
Explain the meaning of this statement. (2 marks)

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x) What is Kwame's attitude towards women? (2mks)

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xi) Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases as used in the passage. (3 mks)

- a) Disinfecting
- b) The words cut like a whip
- c) Impertinent

LITERARY APPRECIATION:

The Caucasian Chalk Circle

Read the following excerpt and answer the questions that follow.

Grusha: Hide him. Quickly! The Ironshirts are coming! I laid him on your doorstep. But he isn't mine. He's from a good family.
Peasant Woman: Who's coming! What Ironshirts?
Grusha: Don't ask questions. The Ironshirts that are looking for it.
Peasant Woman: They've no business in my house. But I must have a little talk with your, it seems.
Grusha: Take off the fine linen. It'll give us away.
Peasant Woman: Linen, my foot! In this house I make the decisions! "You can't vomit in

my room!" Why did you abandon it? It's a sin.

Grusha (*looking out of the window*): Look, they're coming out from behind those trees! I shouldn't have run away, it made them angry. Oh, what shall I do?

Peasant Woman: (*looking out of the window and suddenly starting with fear*): Gracious! Ironshirts!

Grusha: They're after the baby.

Peasant Woman: Suppose they come in!

Grusha: You mustn't give him to them. Say he's yours.

Peasant Woman: Yes.

Grusha: They'll run him through if you hand him over.

Peasant Woman: But suppose they ask for it? The silver for the harvest is in the house.

Grusha: If you let them have him, they'll run him through, right here in this room! You've got to say he's yours!

Peasant Woman: Yes. But what if they don't believe me?

Grusha: You must be firm.

Peasant Woman: They'll burn the roof over our heads.

Grusha: That's why you must say he's yours. His name's Michael. But I shouldn't have told you. (*The Peasant Woman nods*). Don't nod like that. And don't tremble – they'll notice.

Peasant Woman: Yes.

Grusha: And stop staying yes, I can't stand it. (*She shakes the Woman*). Don't you have any children?

Peasant Woman: (*muttering*): He's in the war.

Grusha: Then maybe he's an Ironshirt? Do you want him to run children through with a lance? You'd baw him out. "No fooling with lances in my house!" you'd shout, "is that what I've reared you for? Wash your neck before you speak to your mother!"

Peasant Woman: That's true, he couldn't get away with anything around here!

Grusha: So you'll say he's yours?

Peasant Woman: Yes.

Grusha: Look! They're coming!
There is a knocking at the door. The women don't answer. Enter Ironshirts. The Peasant Woman bows low.

Corporal: Well, here she is. What did I tell you? What a nose I have! I smelt her. Lady, I have a question for you. Why did you run away? What did you think I would do to you? I'll bet it was something unchaste. Confess!

Grusha: (*While the Peasant Woman bows again and again*): I'd left some milk on the stove, and I suddenly remembered it.

Corporal: Or maybe you imagined I looked at you unchastely? Like there could be something between us? A carnal glance, know what I mean?

Grusha: I didn't see it.

Corporal: But it's possible, huh? You admit that much. After all, I might be a pig. I'll be frank with you: I could think of all sorts of things if we were alone.

(To the Peasant Woman) Shouldn't you be busy in the yard? Feeding the hens?

- (a) Give reasons that motivate Grusha to leave Michael at the peasant woman's doorstep. Answer in note form (4 mks)

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- (b) Identify two aspects of style used in the excerpt. (4 mks)

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- (c) Why does Grusha feel that she shouldn't have revealed the baby's name to the peasant woman? (2 mks)

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- (d) "They're after the baby". Explain who are after the baby, under whose orders and for what reasons? (3 mks)

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- (e) With illustrations give one character trait for each of the following characters.

(i) Grusha

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(ii) Corporal

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(f) In reference to the rest of the text where else (a part from this scene) does Grusha encounter the same corporal. (3 mks)

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(g) You mustn't give him to them. Add a question tag.

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(h) What happens after this excerpt? (2 mks)

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(i) Explain the meaning of the following as used in the excerpt.

(a) Bawl

(b) Run him through

(c) Carnal glance

ORAL LITERATURE

The Man, His Son and The Squirrel

There was a certain town whose only occupation was catching squirrels (ground squirrels). There was a man in this town who excelled at catching squirrels. One squirrel was so smart that it eluded everyone in town. It was said that only this man said to his son, "Come, let's go to catch the squirrel." They took an axe; they found the squirrel near its hole. Then the squirrel ran and entered its hole. They searched out all the holes, then they stopped them up. Then the man said to his son, "Don't let the quirrel get out of its hole." He answered, "Okay." But one hole wasn't stopped up, and the squirrel escaped. When it escaped, the father came to his son and said to him, "Why did you let it escape? If I go home now, I will be ashmed." He grabbed the axe and struck

his son. Then he went on his way and left his son unconscious. Ants began to fill his eyeballs and his ears; vultures were circling above him.

In the afternoon, the headman of a rich caravan arrived at the spot. When he arrived, he set up camp. Then he got up and went for a stroll and saw the boy. He called his slaves to take him and have him washed and shaved. The boy recovered. The headman had no offspring. When he took the boy, he decided that he would make him his son. He sent a message to the chief of the town, telling him that he had an offspring, that he was happy he had become a complete man, and that he would now receive the gifts due to him.

The chief said, "This is a lie. He is not his son. If he is his son, then let him come that I can see." Then the headman arrived in town. The chief gave his sons horses worth ten pounds. He said, "Go and join the son of the headman. Have a race. When you finish give these horses away" (forcing him to do the same). They did it and they returned. the next day, the chief again gave them horses worth ten pounds. They did as the day before. They did it five times. They ran out of horses. Then the chief said, "Indeed, it is his son I have run out of horses. If it weren't his son, he wouldn't agree to let him give his own horses away to match the presents." Then the chief summoned his daughter. The Gralladima brought him to help. The Madaki also gave, and the Makama gave. Altogether, four wives. The chief gave a big house. The headman came and brought twenty concubines and gave to his son. There was continuous feasting.

Then one day the son saw his father, the one who had knocked him down with the axe because of the squirrels. The father came to the house of his son and said, "Throw away your gown and start catching squirrels." The slaves of the headman said, "This is a crazy man, let us all strike him." The boy said to him, "This is my father, the one who sired me." The headman said, "I have already lied to the chief. Let us keep that secret. I will give your father wealth. Let him go home. Should he want to see you, let him come to visit you. If you want to see him, then you can go and visit him." The real father said he did not agree. Then the headman said, "Well then, let us go out in the countryside." They went. The headman unsheathed his sword. He handed it to the son, and said, "Kill one of the two of us." Here ends the story.

Questions

(a) (i) Classify the above narrative. (1 mk)

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(ii) What are the characteristics of the above classification? (2 mks)

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(iii) What is the function of this narrative? (1 mk)

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(b) Identify and illustrate any three features of oral narrative evident in the story. (6 mks)

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(c) Give one economic activity that is undertaken by the community referred to in this narrative. (2 mks)

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(d) Describe the character of the following:

(i) The young man (2 mks)

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(ii) his father (2 mks)

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(e) Whom do you think would be the most appropriate audience of this story. (2 mks)

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(f) What is the moral lesson of this narrative? (2 mks)

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GRAMMAR

A. Rewrite the following sentences as instructed.

(i) (a) The photographs will be taken at the venue of the wedding. The photographs will

be taken in a reputable studio. (Combine into one sentence using 'eitheror,,,,,')

(1 mk)

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(b) Neither the children nor the peasantallowed to go to the hall yesterday.
(Rewrite filling the blank with an appropriate auxiliary verb). (1 mk)

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(ii) (a) The principal noticed serious laxity among the students. He warned them against such behaviour. (Combine the sentence using present participle.) (1 mk)

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(b) The farmer's cow gives twenty-five kilos of milk everyday. He feeds and waters it very well. (Combine using the present participle). (1 mk)

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(iii) Underline the gerund in the following sentence.

Kibet is studying but swimming is his hobby. (1 mk)

(iv) Replace the underlined word with a phrasal verb.

(a) It is not good to despise other people. (1 mk)

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(b) I am currently living with my brother in Karen. (1 mk)

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(c) The principal was annoyed with the three boys. (1 mk)

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B. Rewrite the following sentences correcting the errors.

(i) There are situations of which you need to act with speed or else the consequences will catch up with you. (1 mk)

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- (ii) She likes football as it is more superior than hockey. (1 mk)
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C. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate prepositions.

- (i) He was chargedforging property inheritance document. (1 mk)
- (ii) Kamau dealsgroceries. (1 mk)

D. Give two meanings from the sentence below.

“Did you see the girls with a telescope?” (1 mk)

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E. Use the correct form of the words in the brackets to fill in the blanks.

- (i) The couple has applied for a divorce overdifferences. (reconcile). (1 mk)
- (ii) That matter is highly.....(contest) in a court of law. (1 mk)