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UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2023/2024

FOURTH YEAR, FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR
OF EDUCATION ARTS

ELI 3400: LITERATURE OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA

DATE: DECEMBER 2023

TIME: 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer Question *One* (Compulsory) and any other *Two* Questions.

QUESTION ONE - (30 MARKS)

- a) Briefly illustrate how slavery has an impact on literature of the diaspora referring to any text covered in this unit. (5 Marks)
- b) Using illustrations differentiate these terms:
- (i) African Diaspora
 - (ii) Harlem Renaissance
 - (iii) Slave Narratives (15 Marks)
- c) Discuss with examples the significance of the literature of the Diaspora in addressing:
- (i) Racism
 - (ii) Political Unfairness (10 Marks)

QUESTION TWO – (20 MARKS)

- a) With close reference to any short story from the African Diaspora, briefly address two social interests of the writer. (10 Marks)
- b) Briefly examine the influence of African oral traditions on the works of novelists of the African diaspora. (10 Marks)

QUESTION THREE - (20 MARKS)

- a) Using relevant examples do a brief analytical comparison of the thematic interests of poets from two epochs of the African diaspora. (10 Marks)
- b) Using any of the novels covered in this unit; justify how language addresses two thematic concerns. (10 Marks)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- a) Using the play *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry, defend the use of characters in addressing the themes of family and hope. (10 Marks)
- b) Using either Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* or Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and examine two characters and how they are used to castigate racism. (10 Marks)

QUESTION FIVE – (20 MARKS)

Using the poem below, identify and discuss five themes addressed (20 Marks)

'I Too' by Langston Hughes (1926)

I, too, sing America

I am the darker brother,

They send me to eat in the kitchen

When company comes,

But I laugh,

And eat well,

And grow strong.

Tomorrow,

I'll sit at the table

When company comes.

Nobody'll dare

Say to me

—Eat in the kitchen,

Then.

Besides,

They'll see how beautiful I am

And be ashamed,—

I, too, am America. (cullled from *The New Negro* edited by Alain Locke)