



ROBERT MUGABE SCHOOL OF HERITAGE & EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES, MEDIA & COMMUNICATION STUDIES

MASTER OF EDUCATION LANGUAGES DEGREE

LEVEL 1 SEMESTER 2

EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER

MODULE CODE CLEN 515

MODULE NARRATION GENRE STUDIES

DATE 2025

DURATION 3 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

- 1. Answer any TWO questions**
- 2. All questions carry equal marks**
- 3. Do not repeat material**

1. 'No genre is ever static.' Using Sophocles' *Oedipus the king* and **either** Shakespeare's *Hamlet* or Miller's *Death of a Salesman*, discuss the validity of the statement.
2. Discuss the differing forms and functions of life writing using illustrations from Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* and Mandela's *Long walk to freedom*.
3. Compare the form and purpose of epic and either detective fiction or postmodern fiction. Refer to Niane's *Sundiata* and either Freeman's *Rumours of Ophir* or Vera's *The stone virgins*.
4. Using the following poem "Real Poetry" by Thomas Bvuma, engage with the poet's view of poetry.

Real poetry

The real poetry
 Was carved across centuries
 Of chains and whips
 It was written in the red streams
 Resisting the violence of
 'Effective occupation'

It was engraved in killings in Katanga
 In the betrayals of Mau-Mau
 In countless anti-people coups
 Its beat was bones in Bissau
 Its metaphors massacres in Mozambique
 Its alliteration agony in Angola
 Its form and zenith
 Fighting in Zimbabwe

The real poetry
 Is sweat scouring down
 The backed valley of the peasant's back
 Down to the starved gorge of his buttocks

It bubbles and boils
 In the blisters of the farm labourer

It glides in the greased hands
 Of the factory worker
 Not a private paradise
 Nor an individual inferno

But the pain and pleasure
 Of people in struggle.

Viva Povo!

(Thomas Bvuma)

END OF PAPER