



**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