



For Performance Measurement

**ZIMBABWE SCHOOL
EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL
(ZIMSEC)**

ADVANCED LEVEL SYLLABUS

**LITERATURE IN ENGLISH
9153**

1.0 PREAMBLE

This is a two-year course syllabus which views Literature as, among other things, an ideological tool which is used to create self-awareness. The tests offered capture the experiences of Zimbabweans, Africans and other peoples of the world. However, since ideologies are temporary and skills are permanent, the syllabus endeavours to develop life-long skills of appreciating Literature and Literary works. For this reason, the Comment and Appreciation Paper has been made compulsory.

2.0 AIMS

To develop/cultivate/encourage in students:

- 2.1 an appreciation of, and an informed personal response, to Literature in English in a variety of texts in different genres and from different historical periods and cultures;
- 2.2 The interdependent skills of reading, analysis and communication by showing the ability to:-
 - 2.2.1 understand and respond to explicit values and implicit attitudes and meanings in texts;
 - 2.2.2 describe and comment on form, structure and language in relation to meaning;
 - 2.2.2 effectively and clearly convey their understanding of, response to and evaluation of literary texts;
- 2.3 an understanding of the nature and methods of literary study, demonstrating that literary works may be differently interpreted and valued.
- 2.4 wider reading and an understanding of how it may contribute to personal development.

3.0 ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

Candidates will be required to show their ability to:

- 3.1 respond critically to texts and passages of different types and periods;
- 3.2 understand the ways in which writers' choices of form, structure and language shape meaning;
- 3.3 appreciate the contexts in which literary works are written and understood;

- 3.4 discuss personal and other critical interpretations of literary texts;
- 3.5 produce knowledgeable, independent opinions and judgements on literary texts;
- 3.6 communicate clearly and effectively the knowledge, understanding and insight appropriate to literary study.

NB: Candidates will be required to show the ability to organize and present information ideas, descriptions and arguments clearly and logically, taking into account the correct use of grammar, punctuation and spelling. In all papers continuous prose answers are required, unless otherwise specified. Marks awarded will take into account the quality of language used by the candidates.

4.0 SCHEME OF ASSESSMENT

Candidates are to take Paper 1 and any two from the optional papers.

NB: All papers are offered in November and June of the following year.

PAPER	WEIGHTING	DURATION
<u>Paper 1:</u> Comment and Appreciation (Unseen Passages) (Compulsory)	33 ¹ / ₃ %	3 hours
<u>Paper 2:</u> Zimbabwean and African Literature (Optional)	33 ¹ / ₃ %	3 hours
<u>Paper 3:</u> Shakespeare and Other Dramatists (Optional)	33 ¹ / ₃ %	3 hours
<u>Paper 4:</u> Contemporary Literature: (Post World War II) (Optional)	33 ¹ / ₃ %	3 hours
<u>Paper 5:</u> World Literature (Optional)	33 ¹ / ₃ %	3 hours

5.0 SPECIFICATION GRID

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVE	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5
3.1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.3	x	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.4	x	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Each paper has 33% weighting					

PAPER SPECIFICATIONS

- 5.1 **Paper 1** **Comment and Appreciation (Unseen Passages)**
This paper is compulsory
- (i) Duration: 3 hours
 - (ii) The texts will be drawn from the poetry, drama and prose written after 1550.
 - (iii) Candidates are to answer **two** questions out of a choice of four.
- 5.2 **Paper 2** **Zimbabwean and African Literature**
- (i) Duration: 3 hours
 - (ii) *Section A: Zimbabwean Literature*
Two texts are offered. Candidates are to answer **one** question based on one text.
 - (iii) *Section B: African Literature*
Four texts are offered. Candidates are to answer **two** questions based on two texts.
- 5.3 **Paper 3** **Shakespeare and Other Dramatists**
- (i) Duration: 3 hours
 - (ii) *Section A: Shakespeare*
Two texts are offered. One question based on **one** text is to be answered.
 - (iii) *Section B: Other Dramatists*
Four texts are offered. Candidates are to answer **two** questions based on two texts.
- 5.4 **Paper 4** **Contemporary Literature (Post World-War II)**
- (i) Duration: 3 hours
 - (ii) Five texts are offered. Candidates are to answer **three** questions based on three texts.
- 5.5 **Paper 5** **World Literature**
- (i) Duration: 3 hours
 - (ii) Five texts are offered. Candidates are to answer **three** questions based on three texts.

5.6 Advanced Level Literature in English Setbooks for November 2013 and June 2014

Prescribed texts will be advised in examination circulars on a yearly basis. ZIMSEC puts asterisks on setbooks to show the number of years they might still have on the syllabus. Some setbooks may not last for the four recommended years because of their size and depth of content. It is important to always refer to the actual syllabus for the other syllabus requirements.

6.0 PAPER DESCRIPTIONS

6.1 Paper 1: Comment and Appreciation (Unseen Passages) – 3 Hours

This is a compulsory paper.

Four questions based on unseen texts will be set and candidates will be required to answer any **two**. The texts will be drawn from poetry, drama and prose. One of the questions may involve a comparison of passages and another might offer the opportunity for imaginative response.

The questions will test the candidates' ability to respond with understanding to texts of different types of periods and to demonstrate, through informed discussion and opinion, an understanding of the writers' choices of form, structure and language to express meanings.

The author's name, with either the era of the author or the date of the text, will be indicated. The candidates are not expected to express their knowledge of the literary or historical background, or of the other works by the named author. The candidates will be tested on their original and personal responses to texts and their ability to present ideas clearly and logically. The use of grammar, spelling and punctuation will be taken into account.

Texts and dictionaries will **not** be allowed into the examination room.

There are no prescribed texts for this paper, however, Appendix A lists some suggested materials that could be useful.

6.2 Paper 2: Zimbabwean and African Literature – 3 Hours

This paper consists of two Sections: Section A – Zimbabwean Literature and Section B – African Literature. Candidates will be required to answer **three** questions: **One** from Section A where there are two set texts and **two** from Section B where there are four set texts.

An essay question and a passage-based question will be set on each text. The questions will be designed to assess candidates' understanding of the relationship between form and meaning in literary texts and their knowledge of the contexts in which those texts are written and interpreted.

Candidates will be assessed on their knowledge of texts, their imaginative and personal responses to them, as well as their ability to organize and present

information, ideas and arguments clearly and logically, taking into account their use of grammar, punctuation and spelling.

Texts and dictionaries will **not** be allowed into the examination room.

Paper 2 – Setbooks

Section A – Zimbabwean Literature

- ** Bvuma T S - Every Stone that Turns
- ** Staunton Irene (ed) - Writing Still

Section B – African Literature

- P'Bitek Okot - Song of Lawino and Song of Ocol
- ** Ba Miriama - Scarlet Song
- ** Beti Mongo - Mission to Kala
- *** Rheam Bryony - The September Sun

** Set also for N2013, J2014, N2014, J2015, N2015 and J2016

*** Set also for N2013, J2014, N2014, J2015, N2015, J2016, N2016 and J2017

6.3 Paper 3: Shakespeare and Other Dramatists – 3 Hours

This paper consists of two sections: Section A – Shakespeare and Section B – Other Dramatists. Candidates will be required to answer **three** questions: one from Section A where there are two set texts and **two** from Section B where there are four set texts.

An essay question and a passage-based question will be set on each text. The questions will be designed to assess candidates' understanding of the relationship between form and meaning in literary texts and their knowledge of the contexts in which those texts are written and interpreted.

Candidates will be assessed on their knowledge of texts, their imaginative and personal responses to them, as well as their ability to organize and present information, ideas and arguments clearly and logically, taking into account their use of grammar, punctuation and spelling.

Texts and dictionaries will **not** be allowed into the examination room.

Paper 3

Section A – Shakespeare

***	Shakespeare William	-	Measure for Measure
	Shakespeare William	-	King Lear

Section B - Other Dramatists

**	Ibsen Henrik	-	A Doll's House
**	Wilde O	-	The Importance of Being Ernest
**	Kilalea Rory (ed)	-	In the Continuum and other Plays
***	Taban Lo Liyong	-	The Colour of Hope

** Set also for N2013, J2014, N2014, J2015, N2015 and J2016

*** Set also for N2013, J2014, N2014, J2015, N2015, J2016, N2016 and J2017

6.4 Paper 4: Contemporary Literature (Post World War II) – 3 Hours

This paper consists of texts dealing with contemporary issues (e.g. gender, human and animal rights etc in the Post World War II period). Candidates will be required to answer **three** questions on any **three** of the five texts offered.

An essay question and a passage-based question will be set on each text. The questions will be designed to assess candidates' understanding of the relationship between form and meaning in literary texts and their knowledge of the contexts in which those texts are written and interpreted.

Candidates will be assessed on their knowledge of texts, their imaginative and personal responses to them, as well as their ability to organize and present information, ideas and arguments clearly and logically, taking into account their use of grammar, punctuation and spelling.

Texts and dictionaries will **not** be allowed into the examination room.

Paper 4 - Setbooks

**	Magona Sandiwe	-	To My Children's Children
**	Staunton and Musengezi	-	A Tragedy of Lives
**	WaThiongo Ngugi	-	Secret Lives
**	Mashingaidze Gomo	-	A Fine Madness
***	Charles Mungoshi	-	Walking Still

** Set also for N2013, J2014, N2014, J2015, N2015 and J2016

*** Set also for N2013, J2014, N2014, J2015, N2015, J2016, N2016 and J2017

6.5 Paper 5: World Literature – 3 Hours

This paper consists of works on prose, poetry and drama by writers from all over the world. Candidates will be required to answer **three** questions on any **three** of the five texts offered.

An essay question and a passage-based question will be set on each text. The questions will be designed to assess candidates' understanding of the relationship between form and meaning in literary texts and their knowledge of the contexts in which those texts are written and interpreted.

Candidates will be assessed on their knowledge of texts, their imaginative and personal responses to them, as well as their ability to organize and present information, ideas and arguments clearly and logically, taking into account their use of grammar, punctuation and spelling.

Texts and dictionaries will **not** be allowed into the examination room.

Paper 5 - Setbooks

	Chinua Achebe and C. L. Innes	-	The Heinemann Book of Contemporary African Short Stories
**	Lovelace E	-	The Dragon Can't Dance
**	Kanengoni Alexander	-	Echoing Silences
**	Mtizira Nyaradzo	-	The Chimurenga Protocol
**	Muchadei Nyota, Manyarara Barbara Rosemary Moyana (Compilers)	-	Hunting in Foreign Lands and Other Stories
**	Set also for N2013, J2014, N2014, J2015, N2015 and J2016		

7.0 APPENDIX A

RESOURCE LIST

Please note that this is NOT a list of prescribed texts, but rather a list of suggested materials.

Peter Abbs and John Richardson, *The Forms Of Narrative: A Practical Guide*, Cambridge University Press (ISBN 0521371597).

Peter Abbs and John Richardson, *The Forms Of Poetry: A Practical Guide*, Cambridge University Press (ISBN 0521371600).

John Brown and Terry Gifford, *Teaching A-Level Literature: A Student Centres Approach* (ISBN 041501641 X)

C J Brumfit and R A Carter, ed, *Literature and Language Teaching*, Oxford University Press (ISBN 098314434)

Steven Croft and Helen Cross, *A Practical Guide to Poetry*, Open University Press (ISBN 098314434)

Patrick Dias and Mike Hayhoe, *Developing Response to Poetry*, Open University Press (ISBN 0335158331)

Rex Gibson, *Teaching Shakespeare*, Cambridge University Press (ISBN 0521577888)

Simon Greehall and Michael Swan, *Effective Reading Skills, Reading Skills for Advanced Students*, Cambridge University (ISBN 0521317592)

Sue Hackman and Barbra Marshall, *Into Literature: A Bridging Course to Advanced Study*, Hodder and Stoughton (ISBN 034073803)

George Keith and John Shuttleworth, *Living Language: Original Writing*, Hodder and Soughton (ISBN 0340730803)

Victor J Lee, *English Literature in Schools*, Open University (ISBN 0335152467)

John Lennard, *The Poetry Handbook*, Oxford University Press (ISBN 0198711492)

John Mcrae and Roy Boardman, *Reading between the Lines: Integrated Language and Literature Activities*, Cambridge University Press (Isbn 0521277906; 0521277892).

Andrew Mayne and John Shuttleworrrth, *Considering Drama*, Hodder and Stoughton (ISBN 0340381949).

Emmanuel Ngara, *Teaching Literature in Africa*, Zimbabwe Educational Books, 1984

Nguni waThiong'o, *Writers in Politics*, Heinemann, 1981.

Malcom Peet and David Robinson, *Leading Questions: A Course in Literary Appreciation*, Nelson (ISBN 017432379).

Robert Protherough, *Developing Responses to Fiction*, Open University Press (ISBN 0335104050).

Robert Protherough, *Teaching Literature for Examinations*, Open University Press (ISBN 0335104050).

Rob Pope, *The English Studies Book*, Longman (ISBN 04151287676).

Don Shiach, *Prose and Poetry – The Reading of the Text*, Cambridge University Press (ISBN 0521498945)

John Shuttleworth, *Living Languages, Editorial Writing*, Odder and Stoughton (ISBN 0340730846)