

**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LESOTHO**  
**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**  
**B.A. /B. ED EXAMINATION**  
**ELE 3306 - CRITICAL LIFE ISSUES**

**JUNE 2023**

**MARKS 100**

**TIME 3 HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- (a) Answer **one** question from **each** section.
  - (b) All questions carry equal marks
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**Section A**

1. 'Carrying the full basket to the paper was not like the picture on the red raisin boxes Estrella saw in the markets, not like the woman wearing a fluffy bonnet, holding out the grapes with her smiling, ruby lips, the sun a flat orange behind her. The sun was white and it made Estrella's eyes sting like an onion, and the baskets of grapes resisted her muscles, pulling their magnetic weight back to the earth. The woman with the red bonnet did not know this. Her knees did not sink in the hot white soil, and she did not know how to pour the baskets of grapes inside the frame gently and spread the bunches evenly on top of the newsprint paper. She did not remove the frame, straighten her creaking knees, the bend of her back, set down another sheet of newsprint paper, reset the frame, then return to the pisca again with the empty basket, row after row, sun after sun. The woman's bonnet would be as useless as Estrella's own straw hat under a white sun so mighty, it toasted the green grapes to black raisins.'

Helena Maria Viramontes, Under the Feet of Jesus.

Show how the passage above exposes the Edenic myth of capitalist agricultural production.

2. Demonstrate how Helena Maria Viramontes' Under the Feet of Jesus shows how environmental injustice intersects with issues of race, class, and gender.

**Section B**

3. In D.H. Lawrence's 'The Odour of Chrysanthemums', the death of her husband brings Elizabeth Bates to an epiphany around the nature of human relationships, particularly marital relationships.

4. D. H. Lawrence's 'The Odour of Chrysanthemums' is, above all, a condemnation of industrial modernity.

Discuss.

## **Section C**

**5.** ‘Consider Philadelphia [...] to be to the United States what the heart is to the human body in circulating the blood.’

Robert Morris, 1777.

Show how, in ‘Fever’, by John Edgar Wideman, the city of Philadelphia carries the symbolic burden of an American society riddled by the ‘epidemic’ of racism.

**6.** John Edgar Wideman's ‘Fever’ demonstrates how epidemics, like other moments of social disruption, expose social and cultural fissures that normally lie dormant. Discuss.