



GOLDEN ELITE EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHERS 0724351706



BLOSSOMS OF THE SAVANNAH EXCERPTS 2022

EXCERPT 1

Read the following excerpt and answer the questions that follow (25 marks)

“Yes, Papaai,” Resian said **apprehensively**. “I am here. Taiyo tells me you are calling me?”

“Yes, yes,” her father replied. “Please take a seat.”

“Yes, *Papaai*,” Resian repeated as she sat on a chair far away from her father.

“Come nearer...child,” her father said pleasantly.

“Why do you **sit a mile away**? Come nearer.”

Resian moved her chair hardly an inch from where it was and then she looked up into her father’s face with eager expectation.

“If I do remember well,” her father began in a low even tone, “you will be nineteen in September this year, am I right?”

“You are quite right, *Papaai*.” Resian answered eyeing him curiously. His face was unusually kind. His eyes held hers as he smiled broadly. That’s it! she thought triumphantly. “That must be it!”

“You and I have not discussed important issues for a long time,” he said with a friendly chuckle that was intended to bring her closer to him. “I thought today would be the best day to break the news. Your future is very important to me, my dear child.”

Resian thought the concern in her father’s voice, rang false. She hesitated, but could not **hold herself** any more. The anxiety was too great.

“Papaai, is it Yeiyo or Taiyo who spoke to you?” she asked sensationally, thinking she was stating the obvious. But seeing her father’s face cloud, she added quickly.

“Who between them spoke to you about our enrolment at the Egerton University?”

“What are you talking about, child? Her father, who seemed dumbfounded, asked after a long and uncomfortable silence.

“Both Yeiyo and Taiyo promised to talk to you about it, and I thought she had.”

“What, in the name of God are you talking about, child?” he repeated, this time **agitated** and shaking his head vigorously. “No, I have never spoken to anybody about any of you enrolling at the university. Never! When I said I wanted us to discuss your future, that isn’t what I meant at all. Of course not!” Resian looked at her father’s face enquiringly.

QUESTIONS

- (a) What has happened before the excerpt? (3mks)
- (b) What is so ironical in this passage? Explain your answer referring to elsewhere in the novel. (3mks)

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- (c) “Your future is very important to me, my dear child” From elsewhere in the novel, explain why Ole Kaelo tells his daughter so. (3mks)
- (d) Discuss two aspects of character in Resian in this excerpt. (4mks)
- (e) What major issue is addressed in this excerpt? (2mks)
- (f) Explain what happens after this excerpt. (3mks)
- (g) “Who between them spoke to you about our enrolment at the Egerton university? “Rewrite in the direct speech. (1Mk)
- (h) A part from irony, discuss any other aspect of style evident in the excerpt. (2mks)
- (i) Explain the meaning of the following words and expressions used in the excerpt. (4 mks)
- i. Apprehensively
 - ii. Sit a mile away
 - iii. Hold herself
 - iv. Agitated

EXCERPT 2

Read the excerpt below and then answer the questions that follow.

“In Nakuru, this was not a subject that concerned us much. But in Nasila it is on every lip.” “Yes, that’s very true,” Resian said trying to entice her mother to say more. “The other day Taiyo learnt from Joseph Parmuat that female circumcision was initiated by women themselves about two hundred years earlier. And that it was as a result of sexual abuse and harassment by an invading despot called Olarinkoi and his warriors. Is that true *Yeiyoy*? I thought it was one of those myths that were created by men to blame women for everything that works against them.”

“What Joseph Parmuat told Taiyo is factually correct,” her mother told her confidently. “It was the shame and anger that was provoked by Ilarinkon taunts, lewd teasing and provocative posturing that made the women do what they did to **curtail** those desires the worthless predators exploited to prey upon them.” “That may have been true then.’ Resian said looking directly into her mother’s eyes. “But what is the reason for doing it today? Ilarinkon are no longer with us, or are they?”

“The original Ilarinkon may have gone,” her mother said unconvincingly, “but other Ilarinkon are still with us.”

“Exactly!” said Resian triumphantly. “Yes, it’s the latter day Ilarinkon who are wreaking havoc on us women. Surely, *Yeiyoy*, if one discovered a nasty but potent medicine that once taken cured an **ailment**, must they continue to swallow it every day – ten years down the line? I find that absurd. The sensible thing would be to discard the bitter medicine once people are cured. Period! Tell me *Yeiyoy*, what use is FGM to today’s woman?”

“Are you suggesting that it is men who continue to perpetuate this cultural rite?” her mother asked **perplexed** by her daughter’s argument.

“Yes, they are creators of the labyrinth that the women continue to meander around,” she said philosophically. “Even if I am reluctantly convinced that it was women and not men who initiated the obnoxious ritual, who provoked the women to do so? The Ilarinkon who were purported to have pushed women into mutilating their sexuality were men. And the ancient Ilarinkon were no different from today’s Ilarinkon. The ancient Ilarinkon were sadists and despotic. Today’s Ilarinkon are worse. In addition to being despotic, they are oppressive tyrants; ‘and one of their ways of oppressing us is to demand that F G M be perpetuated against us forever!’”

QUESTIONS:

- (a) Resian is fond of her sister Taiyo. Why is Taiyo not here at this moment? Explain the significance of her absence. (3marks)
- (b) Discuss **two** themes evident in the excerpt. (4marks)

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- (c) In your words rephrase the origin of FGM (3marks)
- (d) Describe **two**-character traits of Resian as brought out in the excerpt. (4marks)
- (e) ‘The original Ilarinkon may have gone,’ her mother said unconvincingly, “but other Ilarinkon are still with us.”
- Change into reported speech* (1mark)
- (f) Today’s Ilarinkon are worse (*add a question tag*) (1 mark)
- (g) Identify the main style used in this excerpt. State its **two** significances (3marks)
- (h) Describe the events that occur soon after this excerpt. (4marks)
- (i) Give the meaning of the following words as used in the excerpt. (3marks)
- i) Curtail.....
 - ii) Ailment.....
 - iii) Perplexed.....

EXCERPT 3

Read the following excerpt and answer the questions that follow.

Although Resian had a lot to complain and grumble about in life in their new environment, Taiyo found it tolerable. For instance,

she gladly discovered that mornings in their new home began with a lively chatter of birds in the trees surrounding their house. That gave the home an atmosphere of tranquility and peace.

However, one of the unpleasant aspects that the girls had to live with was the constant violation of their privacy. In Nasila, they soon discovered, the home belonged to all the clan members. It was not an unusual thing to get up in the morning to find the

living room full of men and women who came early, not for any tangible business, but simply to share a sumptuous breakfast with their kith and kin. Taiyo and Resian were soon to get used to hearing an urgent knock at the door very early in the morning.

On opening, they would invariably be met by a grinning group of men or women who would unashamedly ask them what they were doing in bed that late in the morning. They would proceed to take seats in the living room and order them to serve them breakfast. When they got used to what at first, they considered negative aspects of the Nasila culture, Taiyo and Resian adjusted accordingly and soon they began to live harmoniously with the people. Their father was out of the homestead most of the time working at the shop and organizing other business matters. His absence meant the absence of his irksome and corrosive remarks that always heightened tension in the house. In his absence, the house was a continuous joy with comfort and conveniences, and the girls found it pleasurable to keep it clean and well-arranged.

QUESTIONS

- (a) What happens immediately after this extract? (5 marks)
- (b) Where had the family been living before and why did they move? (3 marks)
- (c) Give the character traits of the following: (6marks)
- i. Taiyo
 - ii. The people of Nasila

- (d) Discuss a theme implied in the extract. (4 marks)
- (e) Using the rest of the book, cite and explain one cultural aspect that had a life changing effect on the lives of the two girls (4mks)
- (f) Explain a stylistic device used in the extract. (2mks)
- (g) Taiyo and Resian adjusted accordingly? Add a question tag. (1mk)

EXCERPT 4

Read the excerpt below and answer the questions that follow.

“Yes, Papaai,” Resian said apprehensively. “I am here. Taiyo tells me you are calling me?”

“Yes, yes,” her father replied. “Please take a seat.”

“Yes, Papaai,” Resian repeated as she sat on a chair far away from her father.

“Come nearer...child,” her father said pleasantly.

“Why do you sit a mile away? Come nearer.”

Resian moved her chair hardly an inch from where it was and then she looked up into her father’s face with eager expectation.

“If I do remember well,” her father began in a low even tone, “you will be nineteen in September this year, am I right?”

“You are quite right, Papaai.” Resian answered eyeing him curiously. His face was unusually kind. His eyes held hers as he smiled broadly. That’s it! she thought triumphantly. “That must be it!

“You and I have not discussed important issues for a long time,” he said with a friendly chuckle that was intended to bring her closer to him. “I thought today would be the best day to break the news. Your future is very important to me, my dear child.”

Resian thought the concern in her father’s voice, rang false. She hesitated, but could not hold herself any more. The anxiety was too great.

“Papaai, is it Yeiyo or Taiyo who spoke to you?” she asked sensationally, thinking she was stating the obvious. But seeing her father’s face cloud, she added quickly.

“Who between them spoke to you about our enrolment at the Egerton University?”

“What are you talking about, child? Her father, who seemed dumbfounded, asked after a long and uncomfortable silence.

“Both Yeiyo and Taiyo promised to talk to you about it, and I thought she had.”

“What, in the name of God are you talking about, child?” he repeated, this time agitated and shaking his head vigorously. “No, I have never spoken to anybody about any of you enrolling at the university. Never! When I said I wanted us to discuss your future, that isn’t what I meant at all. Of course not!” Resian looked at her father’s face enquiringly.

QUESTIONS

- 1) What has happened before the excerpt? (3mks)

- 2) What is so ironical in this passage? Explain your answer referring to elsewhere in the novel. (3mks)
- 3) “Your future is very important to me, my dear child” From elsewhere in the novel, explain why Ole Kaelo tells his daughter so. (3mks)
- 4) Discuss two aspects of character in Resian in this excerpt. (4mks)
- 5) What major issue is addressed in this excerpt? (2mks)
- 6) Explain what happens after this excerpt. (3mks)
- 7) “Who between them spoke to you about our enrolment at the Egerton university? “Rewrite in the direct speech. (1mk)
- 8) A part from irony, discuss any other aspect of style evident in the excerpt. (2mks)
- 9) Explain the meaning of the following words and expressions used in the excerpt. (4 mks)
- (a) Apprehensively
 - (b) Sit a mile away
 - (c) Hold herself
 - (d) Agitated

EXCERPT 5

Read the extract below and then answer the questions that follow.

“To speak the truth, brother Parmuat,” Resian said seriously, “I have never heard of patureishi.”

“To speak the truth, brother Parmuat,” Resian said seriously, “I have never heard of patureishi. Does it really exist?” “it is a recent casualty of the changing trends in Nasila,” Joseph Parmuat said, his face-wrinkled with concern. “Individualism, petty jealousy and lack of trust killed that once important aspect of Nasila culture.”

“I believe culture and traditions are never static,” said Taiyo pointedly. “By being dynamic, culture shades off aspects that becomes irrelevant with time. Two examples of such moribund aspects of culture are F.G.M and the clan system that forces people who have no blood relations whatsoever not to have relationship contrary to their wishes. These should have disappeared at the turn of the last century. But alas, they are not disappearing soon, thanks to those who continue to have stranglehold on the culture for the sole purpose of perpetuating their rule.”

“Oh, my! I didn’t know that you hold such strong views on the culture Nasila culture,” Joseph Parmuat said chuckling. “In any case, you cannot say our culture has been static. It has already shed off many negative aspects some of which were obnoxious, such as the tradition of throwing the dead and the dying to the hyenas, or the inhuman tradition of abandoning the very old and terminally ill people in deserted homestead to be disemboweled by wild animals. That was ghastly, wasn’t it?”

“Yes, those traditions were certainly ghastly.” Resian said vehemently. “They were as obnoxious as F.G.M is obnoxious today. If I had power, I would constitute a committee that would go through all the known culture with a fine tooth comb and consign all the bad and negative ones to the dustbin of history.”

“If one did that,” said Joseph Parmuat knotting his brows to show seriousness in which he considered the matter, “that person would be as tyrannical and despotic as the old Olarinkoi was.”

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“Okay,okay! Let us agree that Nasila culture will soon shed itself of F.G.M,”Resian said uncompromisingly. “There are no two ways about it. But,the way ,why is it that there is always a scramble for girls to marry in Nasila, to the extent that men are forced to book unborn baby girls, and then they still have to wait for thirteen to fourteen years for them to be mature?”

“ It is simply because demand outstrips supply,” Joseph Parmuat said roaring with laughter. “You see ,when one man marries seven women, he deprives another six of potential wives. It is that simple. Soon you will see Nasila men coming to your father’s home to book the two of you for marriage!”

“Not us!” said Taiyo and Resian said simultaneously. “We shall never allow it!” Taiyo added jokingly. “ But why go fishing in shallow waters while the blue sea is teeming with fish? Advise Nasila men to go to Nakuru and other towns where girls cost a shilling for a dozen of them. There is an inordinate demand for men there.”

Joseph Parmuat glanced at her enquiringly. He knew Taiyo had been trying to put a message across to him all the time during that evening, but he deliberately declined to take cue. Any time she tried to look directly into his eyes, he slyly averted his and either turned and looked at Resian or looked across the distant plains and to the hill beyond.

QUESTIONS.

- (a) What happens just before the extract? (2mks)
- (b) Who is Joseph Parmuat? (2mks)
- (c) Identify and illustrate two stylistic devices present in this extract. (4mks)
- (d) Identify and illustrate two themes evident in this extract (4mks)
- (e) From the passage identify one character trait of: (6mks)
- i. Joseph
 - ii. Taiyo
 - iii. Resian
- (f) Explain the meaning of the phrase, “But why go fishing in shallow waters while the blue sea is teeming with fish?” (3mks)
- (g) These should have disappeared at the turn of century.(Add a question tag) (1mk)
- (h) What happens immediately after the extract? (3mks)

EXCERPT 6

Read the excerpt below and then answer the questions that follow. (25 marks)

“What do you mean?” he asked, suddenly sitting up. “I hope you don’t imply that our culture comes second. Do you?”

“Not really, my husband,” she said ruefully, beating a hasty retreat. “Our culture is everything and it rules our lives.”

“Good,” he said authoritatively. “Now listen, you must immediately start counselling the girls to understand their roles as potential wives of the men of Nasila. Prepare them to appreciate and accept their future responsibilities as mothers and home builders.”

“I’ll do that my husband,” she said quietly.

“One other thing,” he said evenly. “I’ll ask Simiren to request that young teacher called Parmuat, who is of our clan and therefore a brother to the girls to find time to teach them a few home truths. After that we shall call *enkamuratani* to play her part before we give them away.”

Those were the words, whose utterance she dreaded. And once uttered, she knew, the words instantly became an inviolable edit. Now that he had spoken, the pain was already harrowing and torment in her unbearable. She was torn between her love for her daughters and her dutiful role of a faithful and obedient wife of Ole Kaelo. But in her culture there was no room for dissent, especially if the subject was in conformity with the culture. Who would side with her if she were to oppose the cultural rituals? Her only ally would be the woman the elders of Nasila contemptuously called *entangoroi* or the wasp. Those who honoured her called *Emakererei*, for she was said to have attended Makerere university in Uganda., where she attained her degree in Veterinary Science. Mama Milanoi knew her well. Her actual names were Minik ene Nkoitoi. Outside Nasila, she was respected and honoured. At thirty, she was already managing an expansive government sheep ranch reputed to hold hundreds of thousands of sheep, about one hundred kilometres away from Nasila. Under her were hundreds of employees who worked at the ranch in Nasila, however, she was regarded as the devil incarnate. She was hated and reviled for criticising and campaigning vigorously against traditions that she said abused the rights of the girl child namely girls' circumcision and early marriages. And that had put her in direct collision with the people of Nasila. If she aligned herself with a person who Nasila regarded as having such an obnoxious reputation, where would her marriage stand?

QUESTIONS

- 1) Place the excerpt in its immediate context. (4 marks)
- 2) Why was Minik ene Nkoitoi regarded as a devil incarnate in Nasila? (2 marks)
- 3) From the excerpt, what do we learn about Mama Milanoi? (4 marks)
- 4) Explain two themes that are highlighted in the excerpt. (4 marks)
- 5) “What do you mean?” {Rewrite in reported speech} (1 mark)
- 6) Discuss the effectiveness of two aspects of style employed in this excerpt. (4 marks)
- 7) Describe the mood at the end of the excerpt. (2 marks)
- 8) Explain the meaning of the following expressions as used in the excerpt: (4 marks)
 - (a) Ruefully
 - (b) Contemptuously
 - (c) Devil incarnate
 - (d) Obnoxious

EXCERPT 7

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow

25 marks

Nasila River – cool, smooth and silent – swirled quietly about the boulders that were half submerged in it. It was deep and wide. She stood at its bank for a long time, staring down, into the water. Could the answer to her woes be in that river? Yes, it could be! Just a swift, cold shock as she fell into the water and then there would be peace. Yes, peace all over, from her father, from Oloisudori and from the fact that she had failed to get admission to Egerton University. As the idea floated in her mind, she felt a tap on her shoulder. Shocker, she turned around. It was Olarinkoi.

“What are you doing here at the river side”? he asked with little interest.

“Nothing,” Resian said nonchalantly. “I am just relaxing.”

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“Don’t be foolish, little girl,” Olarinkoi said seriously. “You may not want to tell me what is happening, but I am not foolish and I can put one and one together. Oloisudori’s men are now looking for you everywhere. They have instructions to seize you and take you to Nakuru to be his wife.

“Just leave me,” Resian said angrily, “Go tell them to come and find me here.”

“Listen, you stupid girl,” Olarinkoi said in his caustic language. “If you do not want to marry Oloisudori, I can rescue you the way I rescued you from those vagabonds who had accosted you and your sister. I know where Minik ene Enkoitoi the *Emakererei* lives and where she keeps girls rescued from the situation you are now in. There is no need to despair in life. There is always another chance.”

That could be something to consider, Resian thought, new hope rising in her heart. Yes, it would be wonderful to be received by *Emakererei*. And who knows, there could still be a chance to enrol at the Egerton University, through *Emakererei*.

“How could we ever get there?” asked Resian a flicker of hope lighting her heart. “I hear it is very very far from here.”

“Yes it is far,” confirmed Olarinkoi. “But where there is hope things always work out. The *Maa* people say home is never far for one who is still alive.”

- a) Place this excerpt in its immediate context. (4 Marks)
- b) Describe the incident that Olarinkoi claims to have rescued Taiyo and her sister. (2Marks)
- c) Discuss a thematic concern found in the excerpt. (2 marks)
- d) What does the author imply when he says, “could the answer to her woes be in that river?” (2 marks)
- e) Explain the irony in the excerpt. (2 marks)
- f) Apart from irony, comment on any other **two** aspects of style that the writer has used in the excerpt. (4 marks)
- g) From elsewhere in the novel, state the prophecy that Olarinkoi is trying to fulfill when he plans to rescue Resian. (3 marks)
- h) Comment on the **character** of Olarinkoi later in the novel. (2 marks)
- i) What is the **attitude** of Resian towards Oloisudori’s proposal? (2 marks)
- j) Give the meaning of the following words. (2 marks)
 - i) Nonchalantly
 - ii) Put one and one together

EXCERPT 8

Read the excerpt below and answer the questions that follow. (20 marks)

Her dream was rudely and violently interrupted by a thunderous bang and a loud roar of laughter. She woke up with a start, jumped up to her feet and stared at the door with wide panic-stricken eyes. For a moment she could not figure out her surroundings and called out the name of her sister Taiyo. She was terrified. The door flung open and Olarinkoi staggered in. He was stone drunk. Resian stared at him **unblinkingly** as he

walked towards her and she backed off terrified, squeezing herself flatly against the wall. He followed her there and got hold of her shoulders and shook her violently glaring at her with his glittering eyes.

“You silly thing,” he thundered angrily. “I tell you to prepare food and you refuse to do so, eh? Today you will know who the owner of this home is. If you are still in doubt, let me tell you frankly that from today on you are my wife, hear that, eh? You are my wife. For a long time you have been sneering at me, showing how highly educated you are. Today we shall see how educated your body is! Yes, eh shall see!”

He got hold of her hand and began dragging her into the other room. At first she did not understand his intention until he began unfastening her buttons with his rough trembling hands. Then the truth came, and with it, terror and panic. She tried to get away from him, but he held her **effortlessly** as he brutally continued fumbling with her dress, trying to loosen it. She screamed as loudly as she could while she pushed him away and thrashed frantically about. But that did not deter him and he totally ignored her screams holding her more firmly with his strong arms. Against her loud protest, he tore her garments and began to push her towards the bed.

Then desperately she took the last chance of self-defence and self-preservation. **Mustering** all her strength, she thrust his thumb the flesh like a ferocious animal and tenaciously held onto it, tugging at it fiercely like a lioness. She could feel the flesh tearing and she tasted the salt of his blood as it filled her mouth but she clung unto the thumb as Olarinkoi **howled** with pain.

Questions

1. Make notes on the content of Resian’s dream just before the excerpt (4Mks)
2. Discuss one character traits of Resian in this excerpt. (2Mks)
3. What has greatly changed in Olarinkoi in this excerpt compared to his earlier conduct in the novel towards Resian? (3Mks)
4. Identify and illustrate two aspects of style in this excerpt. (4Mks)
5. Explain two major issues raised in the excerpt. (4Mks)
6. Explain what happens immediately after the excerpt. (3Mks)
7. “Today we shall see how educated your body is” Rewrite in reported speech. (1Mk)
8. Explain the meaning of the following expressions in the passage. (4 Mks)
 - (i). Unblinkingly.....
 - (ii). effortlessly.....
 - (iii). Mustering

(iv). Howled

EXCERPT 9

Read the following excerpt and answer the questions that follow

“Is he cannibal that you have to run away from him so recklessly?” he asked sarcastically and then added acidly sometimes your behaviour borders on imbecility. Who is he?

“He says his name is Oloisudori,” she said in a subdued voice, her eyes downcast.

“Oh, my God” her father exclaimed under his breath straightening up, his eyes suddenly dilating widely. Oloisudori of all people! Oh my God I wonder what has gone wrong for him to come looking for me!”

“I don’t know, Papaai,” Resian said concernedly, worried at the turn of events. “He was saying...”

Her father ignored her. Brushing past her, he strode briskly into the living room with both his arms outstretched in front of him, ready to embrace his visitor.

“Oloisudori Loonkiyaa!” he called out loudly, laughing in feigned excitement. “What an unexpected pleasure to have you in my house. I hope all is well, my dear brother.”

“The pleasure is mutual, brother Ole Kaelo,” Oloisudori said importantly, struggling to stand in order to receive Ole Kaelo’s hug. “I assure you all things are under control.”

It was then that Resian, who had followed her father to then living room noted that the two men were of the same height and possibly of the same age. But what greatly perturbed her, was to hear a slight tremor in her father’s voice as he addressed Oloisudori. She certainly detected a measure of desperation and fear in him. She noticed a faint sheen of perspiration on his face and Oloisudori took advantages of her father’s discomfiture to grin at her, as if to gleefully tell her “you see, what did I tell you?”

Where is your mother?” Ole Kaelo suddenly asked turning to Resian, but before she could answer, he was already calling her out loudly using her formal maternal name, “Ngoto Taiyo.”

“Yes,” answered Resians’ mother from the kitchen.

“Come here at once.” he ordered in a panic-stricken voice. Turning to Resian once more he snapped irritably. Go to the kitchen at once and make yourself useful.”

“Yes ,Papaai,” Resian answered demurely. But before she disappeared, Oloisudori detained her for a moment with a wave of his hand to say, “Brother Ole Kaelo, you have a wonderful daughter here. In your

absence, she received and entertained me in the most delightful manner.” Ole Kaelo snored and grunted but said nothing.

When Mama Milanoi appeared, her husband introduced her to Oloisudori. He then became quite lyrical about Oloisudori’s pivotal role that gave them the financial stability they were now enjoying in Nasila. He mentioned the contracts that he had assisted him to win and others that were still in the pipeline. “This man is more than a brother to me,” he said emotionally “There’s nothing, and I repeat, nothing that he ought to be denied in this home.”

QUESTIONS

- (a) Place the excerpt to its immediate context. (4mks)
- (b) Comment on the **tone** Ole Kaelo applies when he says ‘Oh my God!... (2mks)
- (c) “I assure you all things are under control.” What is Oloisudori referring to? (2mks)
- (d) “Using evidence found elsewhere in the novel, how did Oloisudori treat his victims in business that makes Kaelo very afraid when he finds him in his house? 4mks)
- (e) Identify one **aspect of style** that has been used to give the excerpt a local flavour, provide two illustrations (3mks)
- (f) Is it true that Resian was delighted in entertaining Oloisudori? Explain your answer (4mks)
- (g) What does this excerpt reveal about society treatment of women? (2mks)
- (h) ‘There’s nothing and I repeat nothing that he ought to be denied in this home.’ How did this words come back to haunt Kaelo later on in the novel. (2mks)
- (i) (Give the meaning of the following words and phrases as used in the excerpt. (2mks)
 - i. Cannibal.....
 - ii. Make yourself useful.....

EXCERPT 10

Read the following excerpts and answer the questions that follow

Later, Taiyo was surprised to see that the seemingly helpless and toothless old man was one of the most revered elders in the community. She saw him get up from where he sat with the other two old men, and leaning heavily on his walking stick, moved to the center of the living room.

His pace was dignified as he walked with his chin up and his mouth set in a hard straight line. That was the time Taiyo observed his heavily wrinkled face. There was a haughty set to his features? For a moment, Taiyo felt as if he had fastened his eyed one her and that his gaze was like a physically oppressive force upon her. She suddenly felt in much awe of him.

When he began to speak, his voice boomed and its resonance filled the crowded room. He introduced himself as old Musanka, a member of the Ilmakesen clan and of IIterito age set. He said Nasila was a Maa house and anybody born of Maa was entitled to its shelter. Maa culture was the blood and marrow that gave sustenance to the body. And the body was the collective masses of the Maa. Ole Kaelo, he said, was a tiny strand of hair that had been blown away from its owner’s head by a gust of wind.

The same wind that had blown it away had blown the strand back to its owner’s head. He said the head could not refuse to receive back the returning strand. But the onus was upon the strand to attach and coil itself back onto the rest of the hair on the head and blend with it. if it did not, he warned, it would drop and get trampled upon the ground. He advised Ole Kaelo to re-assimilate himself onto his people’s culture.

“Those of us who have been listening to the sound of our cattle bells,” he said quoting the children’s song, “know that Ole Kaelo’s cattle are home-bound. They were bound to come, for the founder said that when a rat begins to smell, it returns to its mother’s home.

“And speaking of home,’Ole Musanka said candidly, “Ole Kaelo must be told, home is not this house however magnificent it may be. Home is Maa, home is Nasila, home is family land home is the children. Kill one of those four pillars and there is no home to speak about. Sever yourself from the culture of your people and you effectively become olkirikoi, a man of no fixed abode, your elegant house notwithstanding. Where are the women of the Maa? Embrace the wife and children of Ole Kaelo and bring them back into the Nasila fold. Where are the elders of Ilmolelian? There is your man. Cut him loose from the snares of alien cultures. I am through.”

Then he had a parting shot for Taiyo and Resian. “Do not listen to crusaders of an alien culture that is being perpetrated by a certain entangoroj called Emakererei. That wasp advocates that we maintain intoiye nemengalana amongst our daughters. Taba! May she go down with the setting sun!”

After that voluble curse, the old man blesses the Ole Kaelos. He had special blessing for the daughter of Ole Kaelo who served him with a special dish that evening. He prophesied that she will be a mother of the next leader of Nasila and Maa.

QUESTIONS

- (a) From the information given just before this excerpt, state two reasons why the ceremony in this passage is being held. (4mks)
- (b) Why is Taiyo surprised to find that the old man was a respected member of the ceremony in this passage is being held. (4mks)
- (c) Explain clearly Ole Musanka’s analogy of the blood and marrow in reference to the Maa culture.(4mks)
- (d) Identify and illustrate two themes evident in this excerpt. (2mks)
- (e) Cut him loose from the snares of alien cultures. (Rewrite this sentence, using an appropriate phrasal verb) (1mk)
- (f) In note form, summarize Ole Musanka’s praise of the Maa culture. (4mks)
- (g) Identify and illustrate two devices of style evident in this excerpt. (2mks)
- (h) Briefly explain who Emakererei is. (2mks)
- (i) Explain ‘the meaning of each of the following words and phrases as they are used in the excerpt. (4mks
- i. Haughty _____
 - ii. of no fixed abode _____
 - iii. sustenance _____
 - iv. Perpetrated _____

EXCERPT 11

Read the excerpt below and answer the questions

He was very helpful and he agreed to accompany them to the village where the girl was, and help them rescue her. They were about to give up the rescue mission after several attempts to distract the guards had failed. But the man from Nasila was able to lure the whole team of guards to a beer party at a nearby village, leaving the girl unguarded.

It was then that the rescue team stuck! Amidst screams of terrified women, the barking of fierce dogs, braying donkeys and mowing of cattle, they entered the hut where the weak and sickly girl lay. They carried her and scampered away fast, like men fleeing from a burning village for three kilometres, to the spot where they had left the vehicle. And they were lucky to have escaped, for immediately they put her onto the vehicle and they themselves had jumped into it, the fierce-looking guards arrived, breathless, but fuming furiously and brandishing all sorts of deadly weapons.

On seeing that they had been outsmarted, they resorted to throwing stones at them, but by then the four-wheel drive vehicle had shot past the range of their missiles.

Regrettably, they learnt later that the man who assisted them so much and enabled them to rescue the girl, was speared to death by those thugs who accused him of tricking them so the girl could be

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stolen. The girl had, however, arrived safely and she was in fair condition although she was shocked, traumatised and terribly emaciated. She said the girl still found it difficult to walk, for the injuries inflicted to her by the *enkamuratani's olmurunya* had not yet healed.

Minik was thinking of how best to broach the matter in her mind. For a moment she wondered if it was the right time to bring out in the open the matter which she knew would be very painful to the girl who was just recovering from her own trauma. But she knew she could not hide the truth for long. It had to be revealed sooner so that counselling sessions could be put into place soon. Bracing herself appropriately, she quietly and coolly dropped the bombshell.

QUESTIONS

- 1) Place this excerpt in its immediate context. (4mks)
- 2) In which place did the rescue team find the weak and sickly girl? (1mk)
- 3) 'bracing herself appropriately, she quietly and coolly dropped the bombshell.' What was the bombshell? (2mks)
- 4) Describe the relationship of the man who assisted the rescue team with the weak and sickly girl. (2mks)
- 5) Discuss two outstanding themes in the excerpt. (4mks)
- 6) How is Minik portrayed in this excerpt. (4mks)
- 7) What is the role of Minik as shown in the rest of the text. (3mks)
- 8) How has hyperbole been used in the excerpt? (2mks)
- 9) 'but the man from Nasila was able to lure the whole team of guards to a beer party at a nearby village, leaving the girl unguarded.' Rewrite this sentence beginning with a participle phrase. (1mk)
- 10) Explain the meaning of the following words as used in the excerpt. (2mks)
 - I. Scampered
 - II. Outsmarted

EXCERPT 12

Read the excerpt below and answer the questions that follow (25mks)

You are **mad!**" Resian screamed at him. You are stark mad if you think I am your wife. I can only be your wife over my dead body. Yes, you and my father can kill me and carry my dead body to your **palatial** home."

He was stunned by those harsh words. He winced as if he had been struck. Then already harsh line of his mouth tightened and he stood tense for a moment. Then he relaxed and watched her mockingly. "You can never escape Resian," he repeated quietly, smiling. The very normality of his voice as he spoke those monstrous words was most shocking and disturbing to her. Whether you scream your heart out, or jump into the deep sea, Resian, you are mine. You are my wife from now henceforth"

"I want to go now." Resian announced angrily shuddering with **disgust** and terror.

"You want to go?" he asked, the contemptuous quiet of his voice a menace by itself." Go! You want to be persuaded, coaxed and **pampered** to marry Oloisudori Lonkiyaa? Sorry I will not do that! If you want to go, please yourself. You may opt to go, but when you are mine, you will do as I please. No one plays games with Oloisudori. Ask your father, he will tell you."

"Stop it! Stop it! Resian screamed excruciatingly pained by the disdainful remarks of Oloisudori. Putting her hands over her ears, she made a dash for the door. He made no effort to stop her but she flung it open and turned to glare at him with tearful eyes

You are mad! She screamed again sobbingly. "You are stark mad! You hear me? You are nothing but ol-shuushi." She walked away and as she did so, she heard his soft laughter behind her.

1. Say what happens before this excerpt. (3mks)

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2. How is Oloisudori portrayed in this excerpt? (4mks)
3. Describe the feeling of Resian in this excerpt (3mks)
4. From other areas of the novel, state other crimes that are practiced by Oloisudori. (3mks).
5. How does the writer utilize irony in this excerpt? (3mks)
6. “You are my wife from now henceforth” Rewrite in the reported speech. (2mks)
7. Explain the meaning of the following words (4mks)
 - a) Pampered
 - b) Disgust
 - c) Mad
 - d) Palatial
8. What happens immediately after this extract? (3mks)

EXCERPT 13

Read the following excerpt then answer the questions that follow.

“How unfortunate it was that he did not have his daughters with him when he and his wife visited Oloisudori? Ole Kaelo reminisced as he sat in his living room musing quietly. Had they been with them and had they seen what he and his wife saw during that conducted tour, the story would have been different.

He imagined his stubborn daughter Resian would by now be thanking her God for creating her a woman and endowing her with the kind of beauty that would enchant a wealthy man like Oloisudori. And it was only a stupid woman, like his daughter Resian would probably be, who would turn down the offer to own the riches they saw in Oloisudori’s home.

It was true, he thought as he recalled what his grandfather used to say, only a woman went to bed poor and woke up stinking rich the following morning. Even his beloved daughter, Taiyo, could also be lucky soon. Did Oloisudori not say on that first day when he visited them that he had a friend who would be interested in Taiyo? He hoped he would come soon and he would be like Oloisudori, who would quietly hand over to him a briefcase stuffed with notes worth a cool half a million shillings without as much as a glance or a mention of what he had given.”

QUESTIONS

1. Place this excerpt in its immediate context. (4mks)
2. What is Ole Kaelo’s attitude towards women? (3mks)
3. Identify and illustrate any two themes in this excerpt illustrate. (4mks)
4. Explain any two aspects of style employed in this excerpt. (4mks)
5. With illustrations, give the character trait of
 - (i) Ole Kaelo. (2mks)
 - (ii) Resian (2mks)
6. Change the following sentence into a positive statement (1mk)
Did Oloisudori not say on that first day when he visited them that he had a friend who would be interested in Taiyo?

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7. From elsewhere in the text, comment on the source of Olousudori's wealth. (2mks)
8. Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases as used in the excerpt. (3mks)
 - (a) Reminisced
 - (b) Musing
 - (c) Stuffed with

EXCERPT 14

Although Resian had a lot to complain and grumble about in life in their new environment, Taiyo found it tolerable. For instance,

she gladly discovered that mornings in their new home began with a lively chatter of birds in the trees surrounding their house. That gave the home an atmosphere of tranquility and peace.

However, one of the unpleasant aspects that the girls had to live with was the constant violation of their privacy. In Nasila, they soon discovered, the home belonged to all the clan members. It was not an unusual thing to get up in the morning to find the

living room full of men and women who came early, not for any tangible business, but simply to share a sumptuous breakfast with their kith and kin. Taiyo and Resian were soon to get used to hearing an urgent knock at the door very early in the morning.

On opening, they would invariably be met by a grinning group of men or women who would unashamedly ask them what they were doing in bed that late in the morning. They would proceed to take seats in the living room and order them to serve them breakfast. When they got used to what at first, they considered negative aspects of the Nasila culture, Taiyo and Resian adjusted accordingly and soon they began to live harmoniously with the people. Their father was out of the homestead most of the time working at the shop and organizing other business matters. His absence meant the absence of his irksome and corrosive remarks that always heightened tension in the house. In his absence, the house was a continuous joy with comfort and conveniences, and the girls found it pleasurable to keep it clean and well-arranged.

Questions

- a) What happens immediately after this extract? (3 marks)
- b) Where had the family been living before and why did they move? (2 marks)
- c) Give the character traits of the following:
 - i. Taiyo
 - ii. The people of Nasila (6 marks)
- d) Discuss a theme implied in the extract. (3 marks)
- e) Using the rest of the book, cite and explain one cultural aspect that had a life changing effect on the lives of the two girls (3mks)
- f) Explain a stylistic device used in the extract. (2mks)
- g) Taiyo and Resian adjusted accordingly? Add a question tag. (1mk)

EXCERPT 15

have no problem acquiring more knowledge, skills and specialized experience," said Resian in a defiant tone that had Taiyo squirming with apprehension. "I have no problem at all and I thank Yeiyoy for her untiring effort in teaching us. But my question is: do we go through all these lengths to please some bunch of busybodies who do nothing but lounge about in the living rooms, yawning and stretching, waiting for tasty food to land on the table before them? No, I refuse to be taught to solely please male counterparts. They can also cook, and they can, and should also learn to please us females. Period!" Yeiyoy-botorr was shushed. Mama Milanoi was dumbfounded and was at a complete loss for words. Taiyo stared at her sister with consternation.

"Resian-siake!" pleaded Taiyo. "Please give respect to yeiyo-botorr and stop your uncalled-for tirade."

"But surely, Resian," her mother said, regaining her composure. "Have you no respect for your father who is also male? What has gotten into you, child, lately?" turning to the girl's aunt, she added, "enkaini, Yeiyobotorr, this child was not like this before we came here. I don't know what has gone wrong."

"Nothing is wrong with me," retorted Resian furiously. And pointing at the living room with her finger, she fiercely charged, "I have no quarrel with my father for whom I have tremendous respect. It is the like of Olarinkoi I am mad at, and all those males who come here ordering to do that or the other for them, simply because they are males. When women visit us, they give us the leeway to respond to their requests. But as we burn our fingers here, Mr. Olarinkoi is dozing off comfortably in our living room and waiting for his lunch and possibly a little angry and impatient with us for delaying it."

Questions

- a) Place the extract within its immediate context. (4mks)
- b) Give the character traits of the following: (6mks)
 - i. Resian
 - ii. Mama Milanoi
- c) identify and explain a theme implied in the extract. 4mks
- d) Who is Olarinkoi? How does he later affect the life of Resian? 3mks
- e) Discuss a stylistic device extensively used in this extract. 3mks

EXCERPT 16

Yes, that is how Oloisudori defined success, Ole Kaelo thought bitterly. And he and many others define it in the same way.

The archaic adage that exhorted the young and up-coming businessmen to take care of cents and let the shillings take care of themselves was regarded by the likes of Oloisudori to be untenable. Instant riches, just as instant tea or instant coffee were the thing. And the instantaneous bliss brought in an on-the-spot feeling of well-being, felicity and happiness. That was what everyone wanted, Ole Kaelo reasoned, and that was what he himself had always wanted. And that was the reason, like a stinking rotten carcass would draw a torrent of flies to itself, people like him and many others got drawn to the murky business of Oloisudori.

"But now the chickens had come home to roost," Ole Kaelo lamented ruefully. Oloisudori was now demanding his pound of flesh. He recalled the events of that afternoon when Oloisudori came calling. Seeing him in his house unexpectedly, had signaled trouble with his contracts. But Oloisudori had allayed his fears, saying that all was well in that direction. That had restored his peace and calmed his frayed nerves. The success of the shop depended entirely on those contracts. Even the large stocks he held in the go downs were secured on the strength of those contracts. It was therefore gratifying to hear him confirm all was well. What did he want then? He had wondered. But he did not have long to wonder for long, for Oloisudori did not believe in niceties. He had lifted his head, letting a small silence draw out between them, he told him, "There is a small matter that I would like us to discuss."

Questions

- a) What is the small matter Oloisudori wishes to discuss? (2 marks:
- b) How does the small matter affect the Ole Kaelo family? (2 marks:
- c) How does Oloisudori come into the lives of the Ole Kaelos? (2 marks:
- d) Discuss the characters of the following: (6 marks)
 - i. Oloisudori
 - ii. Ole Kaelo
- e) Explain a theme implied in the extract. (3 marks
- f) Give the meanings of the following: (3 marks

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- i. archaic
- ii. pound of flesh
- iii. niceties

g) List and explain one stylistic device used in the extract. (2 marks)

EXCERPT 17

When Minik began to speak, it was to Nabaru the enkabaani that she directed her discourse. Looking at her with charming warm eyes, Minik told her she thought she was her mother's age mate. She would not therefore begrudge her if she found out that, like her own mother, she supported the traditionally favored girl circumcision which was said to have been handed down to the people dating back to the time the Maa people ascended the Kerio Valley. That was said to be in accordance with Maa culture - a culture that she too loved and respected. She said that she even lauded the Maa culture for the tenacity of its fabrics that had enabled it to hold its people together long after others had disintegrated. She however said culture was supposed to be dynamic and it ought to shed off aspects that have outlived their usefulness. She argued that in the past such archaic aspects had been discarded and forgotten.

She gave the example of emuata, a horrible and outdated cultural practice that demanded that young brides, called isiankikin, wear heavy copper wire coils around their limbs, legs from ankle to knee, arms from wrists to elbow and from elbow to armpit.

The copper wire coils were so heavy that they impeded the young women's movement. They were also so tight that they constricted their veins and wasted their muscles. Besides, they harboured flies and lice underneath them resulting to incessant itching. Eventually, that injurious tradition amaut, was discarded and the women freed from that harrowing experience that was ironically meant to enhance their beauty. Similarly, she said, emuratare-o-Ntoiye, which referred to the girl child circumcision, should be discarded in the same manner, for its time had passed and it had outlived its usefulness.

"The name of intoiye nemenga/ana, should stop being derogatory," Minik said triumphantly. "Instead emuratare-o-Ntoiye should disappear from the Maa language and should be considered as extinct."

She said so much more that, at the end, Nabaru was convinced that FGM did not add any value to the lives of its young Victims. Instead, she agreed it traumatized them and was hazardous to their health.

And having been an Enkabaani for a long time, she said she could testify to its devastation, having witnessed the way young lives were ruined by the practice. She vowed to join Minik in lobbying against it.

Questions

- a) Using the rest of the book, explain who Nabaru is and how she ended up in Minik's house. (4 marks)
- b) Minik has been described as an enemy of the Maasai. Using the extract, give your reaction. (3 marks)
- c) Discuss a theme used in the extract. (3 marks)
- d) Explain a stylistic device used in the extract. (2 marks)
- e) Describe one success that Minik achieves in the course of her speech and its significance. (4 marks)
- f) Give the meanings of the following words as used in the extract. (4 marks)
 - i. dynamic
 - ii. injurious
 - iii. constricted
 - iv. derogatory

EXCERPT 18

Suddenly the beam of the vehicle's light brought in to view a small mud-plastered house with a rusty tin roof. Around the house was a thorn fence and beside the house was a small wooden gate that was shut. The vehicle slowed down and stopped in front of the gate. The two men conversed in low tones for a few minutes in the front cabin, then Olarinkoi opened the door and came out. He walked round to the back of the vehicle and shot back the tower bolts that held the tail gate and lowered it.

He pulled out two bags, one of maize flour and the other of sugar, and lifted a couple of large cartons and placed them on the "What are you still doing on the back of the vehicle?" he asked Resian rudely. "Alight quickly, the driver doesn't have the whole night to wait."

The moment she alighted, the pick-up reversed, turned and was driven off. Within a few seconds they were left in pitch darkness and no sound was audible save for their breathing and the gentle rippling sound as the wind rustled dried leaves. The stillness was eerie and frightening.

Olarinkoi removed a torch from his pocket, beamed it on the gate and began walking towards it without walking to Resian. He took a bunch of keys from his pocket, selected one and inserted it into the dangling padlock and opened it. Resian still stood where she had been left in the darkness, feeling sick from hunger and nauseated from the lurching and the rattling of the pick-up. Already a swarm of mosquitoes was gathering around her and a cold wind that was blowing towards her made her shiver uncontrollably. Come on, woman," Olarinkoi growled. "Are you going to stand there until you are dragged away by hyenas? " Good Lord!" Resian gasped in shock. She hoped in God's name that what she was imagining was not what was in Olarinkoi's mind. What had she got herself into! Where was she and was Olarinkoi sincere when he said he was taking her to Emakererei?

She hoped the house before them belonged to another family friend of Olarinkoi and they were going to be there only for the night. In the morning she hoped they would walk to Emakererei's place, which she imagined was close by. But it worried her that rather than rebuking her, Olarinkoi had not looked at her nor spoken to her since they left Nasila.

Questions

- Place the extract within its immediate context. (4 marks)
- Who is Olarinkoi? How had he come to be associated with the Kaelo family? (3marks)
- Using the rest of the book, explain how Resian had come to trust Olarinkoi. (3 marks)
- "What are you still doing on the back of the vehicle?"* he asked Resian rudely. (1 marks)
Write the sentence in reported speech.
- Identify and discuss a theme implied in the extract. (3 marks)
- Explain a stylistic device used in the extract. (3 marks)
- How does the Olarinkoi mentioned in the extract compare to another Olarinkoi in the book? (3 marks)

EXCERPT 19

However, the notion that he was about to hand over his own daughter to a gangster continued to **gnaw** at the conscience of Ole Kaelo relentlessly. He felt guilty, especially when he recalled the atrocities that were known to have been committed by Oloisudori over the years. But another voice told him quietly that he was being foolish and unreasonable to question his own conscience over the matter of Oloisudori, for he was just one among many who were enjoying the fruits of their labour. And it was hardly anybody's business to know how honest that labour was. After all, the small voice reassured him tauntingly, those who committed bigger crimes such as Goldenberg and Anglo-leasing, were still enjoying the 'fruits of their

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labour.’ Had they not invested the yields of their ill-gotten money in housing estates, in shares, in import and exports in tourism, in transport and in other trades, just as Oloisudori had done?

When he went to bed later that evening, he remained awake for many hours **pondering** over those disturbing thoughts that went through his mind fleetingly, like water that churned violently in a turbulent sea. He thought of Oloisudori’s **impending visit** and his intended marriage to Resian. He knew the success of failure of the event would determine the fate of his business. Even his continued ownership of that house where he and his family lived, depended on the outcomes of that event. Should Oloisudori fail to get Resian and recall the loan he had extended to him to buy that house, **he was done**. And knowing Oloisudori, he could very easily draw the rug from beneath his feet, leaving him vulnerable to all kinds of vagaries. And the thoughts gave him anxious moments.

At dawn when sleep overtook him, Ole Kaelo had a pleasant dream. Resian had consented to Oloisudori’s proposal. After Oloisudori reported that to him, he was greatly pleased and relieved. His wife was rapturous. Although they were astonished at the turn of events, they were relieved to know that they would not have to live with the guilt of having forced their daughter to get married. What a wise child his once hardheaded daughter had turned to be after all! And how devious! After all those years of sullenness, awkwardness and tactlessness, she had finally brought relief to their life and ushered in a period of peace and tranquility. But then, it was just that. A dream!

Questions

- a).Place the excerpt in its **immediate** context. (4mks)
- b).Discuss three **major issues** in this excerpt. (6mks)
- c).Discuss two character **traits** of ole kaelo in this excerpt. (4mks)
- d).“and the thoughts gave him anxious moments” (**add a question tag.**) (1mk)
- e).Discuss any **three aspects of style** in this excerpt. (6mks)
- f).Explain the **meaning** of the following expressions from the excerpt. (4mks)
 - (i). Gnaw
 - (ii). Pondering
 - (iii). Impending visit
 - (iv) He was done

EXCERPT 20

They were silent as they climbed the hill on their way back from Nasila to draw water. The water containers that they carried on their backs were now heavy. The straps that supported the containers pressed down their heads with a painful exhaustion.

As they walked, each one of them allowed her mind to fleetingly roam the fanciful land of wishful thinking. Resian thought how wonderful it would be, had she had a chance to enroll at the Egerton University and after graduation had a chance to work with her role model ,MinikeneNkoitoi ,the Emakererei at the sheep ranch that she managed .She imagined herself already there driving a large flock of sheep .And when she thought of sheep , her mind flew back to fifteen years or so earlier and **reminisced**the first time she saw a

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sheep. It was a childhood memory, a memorable picture from the swirling scene around her which had been captured and preserved by her mind when she and Taiyo accompanied their father to the Nakuru Agricultural show. She could still see in her mind a group of big, docile tawny woolly animals that stood panting drowsily in a green pasture, with the sun beaming down brightly from a clear blue sky. She had then admired the white long overcoats that the handlers wore.

Taiyo also thought of Emakererei. She would ask Joseph Parmuat, to assist her compose a song in her praise. She had already put words to a tune she had composed to ridicule the three women who she thought **collaborated** with men to oppress the women folk. They were Nasila's three blind mice who, she thought, did not seem to know that the world was changing. Those were the *enkasakutoni* who threatened to curse *intoiyenemengalana* and ensured they did not get husbands nor children; the midwife Enkaitoyoni who threatened to spy on the young women as they gave birth to ensure that any who was among *intoiyenemengalana* had her status altered there and then; and the **dreaded** Enkamuratani, who will never tire of wielding her *olmurunya* **menacingly**.

QUESTIONS

1. place the excerpt in its immediate context. (4 marks)
2. identify and illustrate two aspects of style in this excerpt (4 marks)
3. discuss two themes evident in this excerpt (4 marks)
4. discuss one character trait of Resian and Taiyo in the excerpt (4 marks)
5. The straps that supported the containers pressed down their heads with a painful exhaustion. Rewrite beginning: with..... (1 mark)
6. How does Resian's thoughts come to be fulfilled in future? briefly explain (4 marks)
7. Explain the meaning of the following words as used in the excerpt. (4 marks)
 - i. Reminiscence.
 - ii. Collaborated
 - iii. Dreaded
 - iv. Menacingly

EXCERPT 21

Read the following excerpt from Blossoms of the Savannah and answer the questions that follow.

"Yes, they are creators of the labyrinth that the women continue to meander around," she said philosophically.

"Even if I am reluctantly convinced that it was women and not men who initiated the obnoxious ritual who provoked the women to do so? The Ilarinkon who were purported to have pushed women into mutilating their sexuality were men. And the ancient Ilarinkon were no different from today's Ilarinkon. Even ancient Ilarinkon were sadists and despotic. Today's Ilarinkon are worse. In addition to being despotic, they are oppressive tyrants; and one of their ways of oppressing us is to demand that F.G.M be perpetuated against us forever!"

A loud knock at the door disrupted their conversation. Before they could respond, there was another knock. Only this time, short urgent raps made in insistent quick succession followed.

"See who it is," her mother told her, happy to get rid of her. She rued the moment she introduced that explosive subject.

Although she had got used to people knocking at any time, that particular knock nearly angered Resian. Why should anybody butt in when she and her mother were carrying out a fruitful discussion? It was rare for her mother to open up to that extent and she would have wished to bring up other issues that required such frankness. Muttering under her breath, she quickly walked from the kitchen through the living room to the outer hall and opened the front door,

Questions

- a) "Yes, they are creators of the labyrinth..." what is Resian responding to? 2mks

- b) Why did women initiate FGM? 2mks
- c) To whom does Resian refer as today's Ilarinkons? Give evidence from the text to support Resian's assertion that they are oppressive tyrants. 4mks
- d) "She rued the moment she had introduced that explosive subject." What had made her introduce the subject? (4 marks)
- e) Resian speaks out against FGM in this excerpt. Give another time in the text when she is critical of outdated practices. 3mks
- f) Describe the character of Resian as brought out in this excerpt. 2mks
- g) Give another word from the passage that means the same as oppressive. 1mk
- h) Give the meaning of the following words as used in the excerpt: 2mks
 - i) labyrinth
 - ii) obnoxious
- i) Who is the visitor? Briefly describe Resian's impression of the visitor. 4mks

EXCERPT 22

Read the following excerpt from the novel Blossoms of the Savannah and answer the questions that follow.

"Oh God of all creation! Resian cried out bitterly and audibly as soon as the cruel ugly old woman left her, "What unending woes these are! "What have I done to the gods to deserve this kind of punishment Then she recalled the teaching of the Bible, and especially where it narrated the woes of those who went through similar or even worse tribulations, but triumphed at the end. She particularly remembered the wailing lamentations of Job and his railing against injustice, and she thought her problems were nothing compared to those he had suffered.

He triumphed because he was stoic, focused and was able to persevere. Olarinkoi and his demonic mother may physically take her to Tanzania, Olarinkoi may physically take her as his wife, they may even physically Circumcise her, but mentally she was going to resist. She was going to refuse to be subdued. Where she could, she was going to physically resist. She resolved to remain focused and she prayed for strength and endurance to be able to bear all those misfortunes.

She had wondered where Olarinkoi was, but she had now learnt from his mother that he was some place planning more evil. She had also learnt that Oloisudori, the monster, was looking for her. She now wondered who among them was a lesser devil. She did not know what to think about her father. He was like the proverbial pig that was fried using its own lard. She thought he was suffering double tragedy: the loss of his daughter and the loss of his shop and home if they were financed by Oloisudori.

Questions

- a) "Oh God of all creation!" What has elicited this reaction from Resian? 3mks
- b) In note form, explain Resian's tribulations and woes since running away. Do not repeat the answers given in question (a). 4mks
- c) Comment on the different moods in paragraph one and two of this excerpt. 3mks
- d) the old woman is referred to as cruel, demonic and ugly. Why would she be described in this way? 4mks
- e) Describe the character traits of Resian. 4mks
- f) Identify and explain one stylistic device used in this excerpt. 2mks
- g) "She now wondered who among them was a lesser devil". How is each of them a devil? 4mks
- h) Give the meaning of the following phrase as used in this excerpt: *Refuse to be subdued* 2mks

EXCERPT 23

Read the following excerpt from the novel *Blossoms of the Savannah* and answer the questions that follow.

"Not really, my husband," she said **ruefully**, beating a hasty retreat. "Our culture is everything and it rules our lives."

"Good," he said authoritatively. "Now listen, you must immediately start counselling the girls to Understand their roles as potential wives of the men of Nasila. Prepare them to appreciate and accept their future responsibilities as mothers and home builders.

"I'll do that, my husband," she said quietly.

"One other thing," he said evenly. "I'll ask Simiren to request the young teacher called Parmuat, who is of our clan and therefore a brother to the girls, to find time to teach them a few **home truths**. After that we shall call enkamuratanito play her part before we give them away.

Those were the words, whose utterances she so dreaded. And once uttered, she knew, the words instantly because an **inviolable edict**. Now that he had spoken, the pain was already harrowing and the torment in her heart Unbearable.

She was torn between her love for her daughters and her dutiful role of a faithful and obedient wife of Ole Kaelo, but in her culture there was no room for dissent, especially if the subject was in conformity with the culture. Who would side with her if she were to oppose the cultural rituals?

Her only ally would be the woman the elders of Nasila contemptuously called entangoroior the wasp. Those who honoured her called her Emakererei, for she was said to have attended Makerere University in Uganda, where she obtained her degree in veterinary science. Mama Milanoi knew her well. Her actual names were MinikeneNkoitoi.

Outside Nasila, she was respected and honoured. At thirty, she was already managing an expansive government sheep ranch reputed to hold hundreds of thousands of sheep, about one hundred kilometers away from Nasila. Under her were hundreds of employees who worked at the ranch.

Questions

- a) "Not really, my husband." What is Mama Milanoi responding to? 2mks
- b) Identify two people who have influenced Ole Kaelo to initiate his daughters and how. 4mks
- c) Ole Kaelo appoints Parmuat to educate the girls about their culture. What is their reaction? 3mks
- d) Describe the character traits of Ole Kaelo. 2mks
- e) Identify and explain one thematic concern that emerges in this excerpt. 3mks
- f) "She was torn between her love for her daughters and dutiful role of a faithful and obedient wife". Give examples of other times when Mama Milanoi's duty as a wife superseded her love for her daughters.3mks
- g) Give two roles that Emakererei plays in this text. 4mks
- h) Describe the attitude of the Nasila people towards Emakererei. 2mks
- i) Give the meaning of the following expressions as used in this excerpt: 2mks
 - Home truths
 - Inviolable edict

EXCERPT 24

2. Read the following excerpt and answer the questions that follow.

"What Joseph Parmuat told Taiyo is factually correct," her mother told her confidently. "It was the shame and anger that was provoked by Ilarinkon taunts, lewd teasing and provocative posturing that made the women do what they did to curtail those desires the worthless predators exploited to prey upon them.

"That may have been true then," Resian said, looking directly into her mother's eyes. "But what is the reason for doing it today? Ilarinkon are no longer with us, or are they?" "The original Ilarinkon may have gone," her mother said unconvincingly, "but other Ilarinkon are still with us." "Exactly!" said Resian triumphantly, "Yes, it's the latter day Ilarinkon who are wreaking havoc on us women. Surely Yeiyo, if one discovered a

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nasty but potent medicine that once taken cured an ailment, must they continue to swallow it every day-ten years down the line. I find that absurd.

The sensible thing would be to discard the bitter medicine once people are cured. Period! Tell me Yeiyo, what use is F.G.M. to today's woman?" "Are you suggesting that it is men who continue to perpetuate this cultural rite?" her mother asked perplexed by the daughter's argument. „yes, they are creators of the labyrinth that the women continue to meander around," she said philosophically.

"Even if I am reluctantly convinced that it was women and not men who initiated that obnoxious ritual, who provoked the women to do so? The Ilarinkon who were purported to have pushed women into mutilating their sexuality were men. And the ancient Ilarinkon were no different from today's Ilarinkon. The ancient Ilarikon were sadists and despotic, they are oppressive tyants, and one of their ways of oppressing us is to demand that F.G.M. be perpetuated against us forever!"

A loud knock at the door disrupted their conversation. Before they could respond, there was another knock. Only this time, short urgent raps made in insistent quick succession followed.

"See who it is," her mother told her, happy to get rid of her. She rued the moment she introduced that explosive subject.

Although she had got used to people knocking at any time, that particular knock nearly angered Resian. Why should anybody butt in when she and her mother were carrying out a fruitful discussion? It was rare for her mother to open up to that extent and she would have wished to bring up other issues that required such frankness, muttering under her breath, she quickly walked from the kitchen through the living room to the outer hall and opened the front door.

A man stood at the doorway, briefcase in hand. He was tall, broad-shouldered and he wore a blue business suit, white shirt and a light blue tie, The muscles of his arms bulged under the sleeves of his coat. His face, above his closely trimmed beard and moustache, was brown and leathery; possibly from exposure to the sun and wind. He had a wide mouth from which protruded two long upper teeth with a wide gap between them, making him look like a warthog, she did not like his long slanting eyes. His pierced and extended earlobes hang comically down his neck, each loop seeming to beg for something to be hooked over it.

"Is this the home of Parsimei Ole Kaelo?" the man asked in a cold, sharp voice.

"Yes it is," answered Resian in a subdued voice, an ominous feeling creeping into her heart.

"What can I do for you?"

"I have come to see him," he said authoritatively and took a step into the house. In an arrogantly confident manner, he asked, "is he in?"

"No he's not in at the moment," Resian answered also taking a step forward to block him. She hoped he would go away. She added impatiently. "He's probably at the shop in town."

"He's not there," the man said emphatically, shaking his head, "I have just come from there."

He peered at Resian. Those slanting black eyes had slid from her face and were now deliberately scanning her body. A creepy sensation sent shivers down her spine,

(Blossoms of the Savannah, Longhorn Publishers Ltd, 2017)

Questions

- a) What had happened before this excerpt? 2mks
- b) Identify the full name of this character who visits Resian's home 1mk
- c) "Is this the home of Parsimei Ole Kaelo?" Change the sentence into a statement 1mk
- d) Describe Resian's attitude towards the visitor. 3mks
- e) Explain how dialogue is used in this extract. 2mks
- f) Explain the major theme in this excerpt? 3mks
- g) In note form, describe the visitor. 2mks
- h) Describe one-character trait of both Resian and the visitor in this extract. (4marks)
- i) Explain what happens later in the novel that concerns Resian and the visitor? (2marks)

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j) Give the meaning of the following words and phrase as used in the extract. (3marks)

- i) Ominous
- ii) A creepy sensation
- iii) Rued

EXCERPT 25

"However disreputable the man may be," her mother warned her, "be careful Resian. We don't know what connection the man has with your father and it would be catastrophic if your tongue would be the one to sever his relations with other men. Go to the living room and tell him I'm busy preparing lunch. Get him a cup of tea or something else to drink and make him comfortable before your father comes. I am sure he will be here soon."

Reluctantly, Resian took a flask that contained tea and cup and slowly walked back to the living room. The moment she reappeared, Resian saw Oloisudori crane his neck, watching her. She quickly placed the flask and cup on the table and her hands automatically flew to the buttons of her blouse that she suddenly felt, from the looks in his eyes' must have been unbuttoned. But

"It must have taken long for you to decide whether to give me a cup of tea?" he said sarcastically.

The man's words shocked Resian and she backed away from him. In the process, she collided with a nearby coffee table and nearly lost her balance

"Sorry," she said regaining her balance and composure. "But we always serve tea to our visitors even when our mother has not told us to do so.

"In that case, I must apologize for my mistaken thought," Oloisudori said as he took the cup of tea. He let a small suggestive silence grow between them before saying, "I'm indeed sorry, pretty lady." Then he smiled at her; a demonic and intrusive smile.

For the very few minutes she stood before him, she felt his black languorous eyes move up and down her face and body with a relentless intimacy that nearly immobilized her with embarrassment. She felt as if his hands were all over her body caressing her against her will.

She even felt angry with herself, when she reasoned that by standing there she was encouraging him to humiliate her. But somehow, it was as if he had hypnotized her, for as much as she had wanted to flee, she found her feet rooted to the spot. As inexperienced as she was in the way men behaved, she could tell from his smile his pleasure in her obvious fear and confusion. And instinctively, she sensed cruelty in him. Sweat trickled down her stomach, broke out on her face, before becoming clammy on her cheeks. She shook her head as if to check whether she was really awake.

Questions

- a) Place this excerpt in its immediate context. (4marks)
- b) State and explain one major theme in this excerpt (2marks)
- c) Identify and illustrate two features of style in this extract. (6marks)
- d) Explain how Oloisudori had helped Resian's father in the past. (3marks)
- e) "It must have taken long for you to decide whether to give me a cup of tea" he said sarcastically. (Rewrite the sentence in direct speech)
- f) How disreputable is Oloisudori? Explain three things that make him a despicable person. (3marks)
- g) Describe one-character trait of
 - i) Oloisudori
 - ii) Resian (4marks)
- h) Explain the meaning of the words as used in the excerpt (2marks)
 - i) languorous
 - ii) hypnotized

EXCERPT 26

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Later, Taiyo was surprised to see that the seemingly helpless and toothless old man was one of the most revered elders in the community. She saw him get up from where he sat with the other two old men, and leaning heavily on his walking stick, moved to the center of the living room. His pace was dignified as he walked with his chin up and his mouth set in a hard straight line. That was the time Taiyo observed his heavily wrinkled face. There was a haughty set to his features? For a moment, Taiyo felt as if he had fastened his eyes on her and that his gaze was like a physically oppressive force upon her. She suddenly felt in much awe of him.

When he began to speak, his voice boomed and its resonance filled the crowded room. He introduced himself as old Musanka, a member of the Ilmakesen clan and of Ilterito age set. He said Nasila was a Maa house and anybody born of Maa was entitled to its shelter. Maa culture was the blood and marrow that gave sustenance to the body. And the body was the collective masses of the Maa. Ole Kaelo, he said, was a tiny strand of hair that had been blown away from its owner's head by a gust of wind. The same wind that had blown it away had blown the strand back to its owner's head. He said the head could not refuse to receive back the returning strand. But the onus was upon the strand to attach and coil itself back onto the rest of the hair on the head and blend with it. If it did not, he warned, it would drop and get trampled upon the ground. He advised Ole Kaelo to re-assimilate himself into his people's culture.

"Those of us who have been listening to the sound of our cattle bells," he said quoting the children's song, "know that Ole Kaelo's cattle are home-bound. They were bound to come, for the founder said that when a rat begins to smell, it returns to its mother's home.

"And speaking of home," Ole Musanka said candidly, "Ole Kaelo must be told, home is not this house however magnificent it may be. Home is Maa, home is Nasila, home is family and home is the children. Kill one of those four pillars and there is no home to speak about. Sever yourself from the culture of your people and you effectively become olkirikoi, a man of no fixed abode, your elegant house notwithstanding. Where are the women of the Maa? Embrace the wife and children of Ole Kaelo and bring them back into the Nasila fold. Where are the elders of Ilmolelian? There is your man. Cut him loose from the snares of alien cultures. I am through."

Then he had a parting shot for Taiyo and Resian. "Do not listen to crusaders of an alien culture that is being perpetrated by a certain entangoroj called Emakererei. That wasp advocates that we maintain intoiye nemengalana amongst our daughters. Taba! May she go down with the setting sun!"

After that voluble curse, the old man blessed the Ole Kaelos. He had a special blessing for the daughter Of Ole Kaelo who served him with a special dish that evening. He prophesied that she will be a mother of the next leader of Nasila and Maa.

Questions

- a) From information given just before this excerpt, state two reasons why the ceremony in this passage is being held. (4 marks)
- b) Why is Taiyo surprised to find that the old man was a respected member of the community (2 marks)?
- c) Explain clearly Ole Musanka's analogy of the blood and marrow in reference to the Maa culture. (4 marks)
- d) Identify and illustrate two themes evident in this excerpt. (2 marks)
- e) Cut him loose from the snares of alien cultures. (Rewrite this sentence, using an appropriate phrasal verb.) (1 mark)
- f) In note form, summarize Ole Musanka's praise of the Maa culture. (4 marks)
- g) Identify and illustrate two devices of style evident in this excerpt. (2 marks)
- h) Briefly explain who Emakererei is. (2 marks)?
- i) Explain the meaning of each of the following words and phrases as they are used in the excerpt. (4 marks)
 - i) haughty

- ii) of no fixed abode
- iii) sustenance
- iv) perpetrated

EXCERPT 27

"No one can accuse us of laziness, cut in Taiyo happily, her spirit buoyed up by her aunt's praise, "And yeiyo here has been our ever resourceful teacher. "That is as it should be," yeiyo botorr enthused. "We were taught by our mothers who were also taught by their mothers, and so on and on back to the time we ascended Kerio valley."

"I have no problem acquiring more knowledge, skills and even specialized experience," Resian said in a defiant tone that had Taiyo squirming with apprehensions "I have no problem at all and I thank yeiyo for her untiring effort in teaching us. But my question is: do we go to all these lengths to please some lazy bunch of busybodies who do nothing but lounge about in the living rooms, yawning and stretching, waiting for tasty food to land on the table before them? No, I refuse to be taught to solely please male counterparts. They can also cook, and they can, and should also learn to please us females. Period!"

Yeiyo botorr was shocked. Mama Milanoi was dumbfounded and was at a complete loss for words. Taiyo stared at her sister in consternation.

"Resian-sake-!" pleaded Taiyo. "Please give respect to yeiyo botorr and stop your uncalled for tirade."

"But surely, Resian," her mother said, regaining her composure. "Have you no respect for your father who is also male? What has gotten into your child, lately?"

Turning to the girls' aunt, she added, "enkaini, yeiyo botorr, this child was not like this before we came here. I don't know what has gone wrong." "Nothing is wrong with me," Resian retorted furiously. And pointing at the living room with her finger, she fiercely charged, "I have no quarrel with my father, for whom I have tremendous respect. It is the likes of Olarinkoi I am mad at and all those other males who come here ordering us to do that or the other for them, simply because they are males. When women visit us, they give us the leeway to respond to their requests. But as we burn our fingers here, Mr. Olarinkoi is dozing off comfortably in our living room waiting for his lunch and possibly a little angry and impatient with us for delaying it."

"It is enough," cried yeiyo botorr viciously. She instantly abandoned the peeling of potatoes and threw the knife into the pail that held the peeled potatoes. Supporting herself by holding onto a nearby wall, she painfully lifted her large, heavy body. "My enkaini," I agree with you that something is wrong with our child. And I think I know what ails her. Come along and I will tell you what I think ails her."

Questions

- (a) Briefly explain what had happened just before the events in this excerpt. (3 marks)
- (b) From the events in this excerpt, describe Resian's attitude towards the teachings of the Maa tradition. (3 marks)
- (c) Would you say that Resian hates men in general? Give reasons for your answer. (3 marks)
- (d) From information given earlier in the novel, suggest a possible reason why Resian dislikes Olarinkoi. (2 marks)
- (e) Identify and describe two themes evident in this excerpt. (4 marks)
- (f) "Nothing is wrong with me," Resian retorted furiously. (Rewrite in reported speech). (1 mark)
- (g) Describe two events later in the novel where Olarinkoi displays two contrasting aspects of behaviour in his relationship with members of Ole Kaelo's family. 4mks
- (h) Supporting herself by holding onto a nearby wall, she painfully lifted her large' heavy body. (Rewrite the sentence beginning: She 2mks
- (i) "Come along with me and I will tell you what I think ails her"" Which explanation does yeiyo botorr give for Resian's defiant behaviour? (3 marks)

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EXCERPT 28

Read the excerpt below and answer the questions that follow.

"Sasa Yeiyoy! Look at me, I ready for our visitor," Resian said cheerfully, addressing her mother. "How do you like my dress?"

"Splendid," her mother answered cautiously.

"MY little Resian-e-yeiyoy, how lovely you look!" her father who was uncharacteristically emotional said. You almost look like a grown up lady. What do you think, Olarinkoi?"

Olarinkoi, who was present that morning looked up at Resian, grunted and snorted. He then grinned in grudging admiration.

"Not bad, he said, looking at Resian sheepishly. "Not bad at all." Oloisudori was time conscious. In the kind of business, he had done in the large part of his working life, time was of the essence. As a gangster, he had to be punctual, precise and punctilious, a small delay, inexactness or careless disregard of the plan could not only result in missed opportunities but could also prove to be fatal.

Punctuality had therefore become his second nature. That was how he approached Resian's issue. Like all other tasks he undertook, he approached it with singleness of mind. He planned meticulously, putting a precise time frame to it. His retinue was well chosen and details taken into consideration. He had hired an anesthetist if the need to render Resian unconscious arose.

At nine-thirty in the morning, they were assembled somewhere near Nasila. Oloisudori was reviewing the detailed instruction that he had given each individual who was to take part in the task ahead. Except for him and his driver, none of the others were to appear anywhere near Ole Kaelo's residence before six o'clock in the evening. They were to appear at six o'clock on the dot, pounce on the girl, seize her, carry her into the car and speed off. If there was need to render her unconscious, that would be done on the way. The next stop would be at her house in Milimani Estate, Nakuru.

The moment Taiyo left, Resian's confidence began to wane. She began to tremble quite literally. In order that her mother did not notice how nervous she was, she excused herself and fled to her bedroom. But on seeing the carton into which they had packed all those gifts that Oloisudori had given them, and which she intended to give back to him, her courage returned. She had vowed to face the monster gallantly, and it was foolish of her to develop cold feet at that point, especially after promising her sister that she would face him, come what may. She was in the battle front and success or failure was in her hands. She had to do it even if her father would never forgive her. If she rebuffed him successfully, an inner voice told her, a whole new world would open up before her. She had therefore to be stoic and face the monster bravely. She glanced at the clock beside their bed; it was a quarter to ten.

Questions

- a. Identify the irony in Resian's words: "I am ready for our visitor." 2mks
- b. In view of events elsewhere in the novel, explain why Olarinkoi is said to grunt, snort and grin 'in grudging admiration' of Resian's appearance. 3mks
- c. Oloisudori is referred to as a gangster in this excerpt. From information given in this excerpt and elsewhere in the novel, justify why this is a fitting description of his character. 4mks
- d. 'The moment Taiyo left ...' Where had Taiyo gone? 2mks
- e. It was foolish of her to develop cold feet at that point. Explain the meaning of the underlined expression. 1mk
- f. Briefly describe the character of Oloisudori as seen in this excerpt. 4mks
- g. In not more than 40 words, describe the arrangements that Oloisudori had made to kidnap Resian. 6mks
- h. Describe what happens immediately after the events in this excerpt. 3mks

EXCERPT 29

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

"These children may not know," he said suddenly, turning his attention to his daughters, "I They may not know and I want to tell them now, that you are their brother. You are no less a brother to them than their own mother's son would have been. You are my son as much as their mother's son would have been my son. Perhaps their mother has already told them, and if she has not, she will tell them tonight that Parmuat's family and Kaelo's family are one. We are all of Illmolelian clan, of Iloorasha-kineji sub-clan."

He told Joseph Parmuat that he had brought up his daughters well, they were well behaved and that he was proud of them. However, having been away from Nasila all their lives, they had missed out on the basic cultural values that harmonized the lives of Nasila people.

In addition to what they learnt at school or in addition to what they were yet to learn through books, he stressed, it was imperative that they learned habits, traditions and their culture that they would make their parents and the Nasila people proud of them. He added that, although he considered the girls intelligent, there was need for them to develop into responsible mature women of the future. That was necessary, he said

emphatically, because there was nothing that parents looked forward to, than to see their children settle down in their own homes.

He had hastened to add that although at their age they might consider what he was saying as ridiculously irrelevant, he knew by experience that there was nothing better than beginning to plan for one's future early. He warned the girls that they might find a few cultural demands obnoxious but they would have to be stoic and them with the Understanding that it was those none-too-pleasant traditions that nurtured and bound their People together. "And those families that had refused to rejoin their people," he added thoughtfully, "had "It should never happen to us," he concluded dramatically.

When their mother spoke to them later, emphasizing what their father had told them, they wore blank faces and deliberately concealed their reaction. She therefore did not realize that they held extremely divergent views.

That was the most exciting news that Taiyo had received ever since they came to Nasila. She was exultant. Although their father never for once mentioned that Joseph Parmuat was to coach her in traditional music and dance, the fact that he had allowed them to interact with him filled her heart with joy. She could hardly hide her elation. Even the repeated assertion that Joseph Parmuat was their brother by virtue of their cultural links, failed to daunt her spirit. Was she simply infatuated with him? If she was, she hoped the feeling would soon simmer down. What pleased her most, however, was that she now had a confidant whom she could ask some of those embarrassing questions that she could not dare ask her mother or anybody else.

It was, however, different for Resian, Deep right into her heart she was seething with ire. It irked her terribly to have had to listen to their father as he prepared them for a journey that she thought would lead them back

to the Stone Age era. She scornfully dismissed the cultural coaching that Joseph Parmuat was to undertake as worthless. She likened the whole saga to a grown up person whose mind degenerated into an idiot and had to content with playing with mud. It was utter foolishness!

"It may not be as bad as you imagine, little sister," Taiyo said, trying to mollify her angry sister. "Maybe by the time brother Parmuat is through with us, we shall be the wiser.

"Wiser indeed!" jeered Resian. "Yes. By the time he is through with us, we shall have been taught a great lesson in stoicism. We won't blink or wince even as enkamuratani mutilates our sexuality to smithereens!"

Questions

- Briefly describe what had happened just before the events in this excerpt. 3mks
- From information given earlier in the novel, suggest a possible reason why Ole Kaelo finds it necessary to emphasize that Parmuat is a brother to Taiyo and Resian. (2 marks)
- According to Ole Kaelo, why had the girls been unable to learn the Maa culture? 2mks

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- d) Why is it important for the girls to put up with cultural traditions that they may find unacceptable? 2mks
- e) In not more than 70 words, summarize Ole Kaelo's message in this passage. 8mks
- f) Why was the mother unable to realize that Resian and Taiyo disagreed with what she had told them that evening? 2mks
- g) Give two reasons why Taiyo was particularly happy that Parmuat would be coaching her in music and dance. 4mks
- h) In note form, summarize the reasons why Resian is opposed to the cultural coaching that their father prepares them for. 4mks

EXCERPT 30

“No Joseph,” she said in an **infantile** whimper. “I can’t bear that we can’t express the love that we have for one another because of some **primitive** culture. If by loving you, I offend the sensibilities of Nasila then let me offend and face the consequences of doing so!”

“I also love you very much,” Joseph Parmuat responded finally. “I loved you the moment I saw you during your father’s homecoming ceremony. But then the clan matter came to separate us. It is true we have no blood relation. But Nasila culture dictates who are related and who are not. We are slotted among those who cannot marry.”

“No, it can’t be, I cannot accept its verdict,” she said **petulantly** her words agonised. “No way, never!” She stopped, confused and angry with herself at her inarticulate outburst. She took several long steadying breaths and then said, “I cannot accept that a culture that does not feed, clothe or house me comes to control my life. Our lives belong to us, Joseph. The **destiny** of our lives is in our own hands. We should guard it jealously.” At last they drew a little apart. His eyes were open, honest and steady upon her face.

Questions

- a) What happens before this excerpt? (3mks)
- b) For both Joseph and Taiyo, give and illustrate two character traits. (4mks)
- c) How is dialogue significant in this excerpt? (4mks)
- d) Explain any two thematic concerns addressed in the excerpt. (4mks)
- e) From elsewhere in the novel, how does Joseph sacrifice for his love for Taiyo (4mks)
- f) Explain the meaning of the following vocabulary as used in the excerpt. (4mks)
 - a) destiny
 - b) infantile
 - c) petulantly
 - d) primitive
- g) What happens immediately after this extract? (2mks)

EXCERPT 31

You are **mad!**” Resian screamed at him. You are stark mad if you think I am your wife. I can only be your wife over my dead body. Yes, you and my father can kill me and carry my dead body to your **palatial** home.”

He was stunned by those harsh words. He winced as if he had been struck. Then already harsh line of his mouth tightened and he stood tense for a moment. Then he relaxed and watched her mockingly. “You can never escape Resian,” he repeated quietly, smiling. The very normality of his voice as he spoke those monstrous words was most shocking and disturbing to her. Whether you scream your heart out, or jump into the deep sea, Resian, you are mine. You are my wife from now henceforth”

“I want to go now.” Resian announced angrily shuddering with **disgust** and terror.

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“You want to go?” he asked, the contemptuous quiet of his voice a menace by itself.” Go! You want to be persuaded, coaxed and **pampered** to marry Oloisudori Lonkiyaa? Sorry I will not do that! If you want to go, please yourself. You may opt to go, but when you are mine, you will do as I please. No one plays games with Oloisudori. Ask your father, he will tell you.”

“Stop it! Stop it! Resian screamed excruciatingly pained by the disdainful remarks of Oloisudori. Putting her hands over her ears, she made a dash for the door. He made no effort to stop her but she flung it open and turned to glare at him with tearful eyes

You are mad! She screamed again sobbingly. “You are stark mad! You hear me? You are nothing but ol-ushuushi.” She walked away and as she did so, she heard his soft laughter behind her.

Questions

1. Say what happens before this excerpt. (3mks)
2. How is Oloisudori portrayed in this excerpt? (4mks)
3. Describe the feeling of Resian in this excerpt (3mks)
4. From other areas of the novel, state other crimes that are practiced by Oloisudori. (3mks).
5. How does the writer utilize irony in this excerpt? (3mks)
6. “You are my wife from now henceforth” Rewrite in the reported speech. (1mk)
7. Explain the meaning of the following words (4mks)
 - a) Pampered
 - b) Disgust
 - c) Mad
 - d) Palatial
8. What happens immediately after this extract? (3mks)

EXCERPT 32

They were silent as they climbed the hill on their way back from Nasila river to draw water. The water containers that they carried on their backs were now heavy. The straps that supported the containers pressed down their heads with a painful exhaustion.

As they walked, each one of them allowed her mind to fleetingly roam the fanciful land of wishful thinking.

Resian thought how wonderful it would be, had she had a chance to enroll at the Egerton University and after graduation had a chance to work with her role model, Minik ene Nkoitoi, the Emakererei at the sheep ranch that she managed. She imagined herself already there driving a large flock of sheep. And when she thought of sheep, her mind flew back to fifteen years or so earlier and **reminded** the first time she saw a sheep. It was a childhood memory, a memorable picture from the swirling scene around her which had been captured and preserved by her mind when she and Taiyo accompanied their father to the Nakuru Agricultural Show. She could still see in her mind a group of big, docile, tawny woolly animals that stood panting drowsily in a green pasture, with the sun beaming down brightly from a clear blue sky. She had then admired the white long overcoats that the handlers wore.

Taiyo also thought of Emakererei. She would ask Joseph Parmuat, to assist her compose a song in her praise. She had already put words to a tune she had composed to ridicule the three women who she thought **collaborated** with men to oppress the women folk. They were Nasila’s three blind mice who, she thought, did not seem to know that the world was changing. Those were the *enkasakutoni*, who threatened to curse *intoiye nemengalana* and ensured they did not get husbands nor children: the midwife Enkaitoyoni who threatened to spy on the young women as they gave birth to ensure that any who was still among *intoiye-nemengalana* had her status altered there and then; and the **dreaded** *Enkamuratani*, who would never tire of wielding her olmurunya **menacingly**.

Questions

1. Place the excerpt in its immediate context. (4Mks)
2. Identify and illustrate two aspects of style in this excerpt. (4Mks)
3. Discuss two themes evident in the excerpt. (4Mks)
4. Discuss one-character trait of Resian and Taiyo in the excerpt. (4Mks)
5. The straps that supported the containers pressed down their heads with a painful exhaustion.
Rewrite beginning: with..... (1Mk)
6. How do Resian's thoughts now come to be fulfilled in future? Briefly explain (4Mks)
7. Explain the meaning of the following words as used in the excerpt.(4Mks)
 - (i) Reminisced
 - (ii) Collaborated
 - (iii) Dreaded
 - (iv) Menacingly

EXCERPT 33

“Yes, Papaai,” Resian said **apprehensively**. “I am here. Taiyo tells me you are calling me?”

“Yes, yes,” her father replied. “Please take a seat.”

“Yes *Papaai*,” Resian repeated as she sat on a chair far away from her father.

“Come nearer...child,” her father said pleasantly.

“Why do you **sit a mile away**? Come nearer.”

Resian moved her chair hardly an inch from where it was and then she looked up into her father's face with eager expectation.

“If I do remember well,” her father began in a low even tone, “you will be nineteen in September this year, am I right?”

“You are quite right, *Papaai*.” Resian answered eyeing him curiously. His face was unusually kind. His eyes held hers as he smiled broadly. That's it! she thought triumphantly. “That must be it!”

“You and I have not discussed important issues for a long time,” he said with a friendly chuckle that was intended to bring her closer to him. “I thought today would be the best day to break the news. Your future is very important to me, my dear child.”

Resian thought the concern in her father's voice, rang false. She hesitated, but could not **hold herself** anymore. The anxiety was too great.

“Papaai, is it Yeiyo or Taiyo who spoke to you?” she asked sensationally, thinking she was stating the obvious. But seeing her father's face cloud, she added quickly.

“Who between them spoke to you about our enrolment at the Egerton University?”

“What are you talking about, child? Her father, who seemed dumbfounded, asked after a long and uncomfortable silence.

“Both Yeiyo and Taiyo promised to talk to you about it, and I thought she had.”

“What, in the name of God are you talking about, child?” he repeated, this time **agitated** and shaking his head vigorously. “No, I have never spoken to anybody about any of you enrolling at the university. Never!”

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When I said I wanted us to discuss your future, that isn't what I meant at all. Of course not!" Resian looked at her father's face enquiringly.

Questions

1. What has happened before the excerpt? (3mks)
2. What is so ironical in this passage? Explain your answer referring to elsewhere in the novel. (3mks)
3. "Your future is very important to me, my dear child" From elsewhere in the novel, explain why Ole Kaelo tells his daughter so. (3Mks)
4. Discuss two aspects of character in Resian in this excerpt.(4Mks)
5. What major issue is addressed in this excerpt? (2Mks)
6. Explain what happens after this excerpt. (3Mks)
7. "Who between them spoke to you about our enrolment at the Egerton university? "Rewrite in the direct speech. (1Mk)
8. A part from irony, discuss any other aspect of style evident in the excerpt. (2Mks)
9. Explain the meaning of the following words and expressions used in the excerpt. (4 Mks)
 - (i). Apprehensively
 - (ii). Sit a mile away
 - (iii). Hold herself
 - (iv). Agitated

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