

4. How does Graham use setting to develop major themes in the novel Heart of the Matter? (33mks)

SECTION C

FERDINAND OYONO: Houseboy

5.

'Confess, you thief,' shouted M. Moreau. 'Give them the butt of your rifle, Ndjangoula.'

The huge Sara ran up, presented his weapon and brought down the butt on the suspects.

'Not on the head, Ndjangoula, they've got hard heads. In the kidney.'

Ndjangoula brought the butt down on their kidneys. They went down, got up and then went down again under another violent blow to the kidneys.

Janopoulos was laughing. M. Moreau panted for breath. The prisoners had lost consciousness.

m. Moreau is right, we must have hard heads. When Ndjangoula brought down his rifle butt the first time, I thought their skulls would shatter. I could not hold myself from shaking as I watched. It was terrible. I thought of all the priests, all the pastors, all the white men, who came to save our souls and preach love of our neighbours. Is the white man's neighbor only other white men? Who can go on believing the stuff we are served up in the churches when things happen like I saw today.....

It will be the usual thing. M. Moreau's suspects will be sent to the 'Blackman's grave' where they will spend a few days painfully dying. Then they will be buried naked in the prisoners' cemetery. On Sunday, the priest will say, 'Dearly beloved brethren, pray for all those prisoners who die without making their peace with God.' M. Moreau will present his upturned topee to the faithful. Everyone will put in a little more than he had intended. All the money goes to the whites. They are always thinking up new ways to get back what little money they pay us.

How wretched we are.

I can't remember what I did when I got back to the Residence; I was so upset by what I had seen. There are some things it is better never to see. Once you have seen them, you can never stop living through them over and over again.

I don't think I shall ever forget what I have seen. I shall never forget that guttural, inhuman cry from the smaller of the two suspects when Ndjangoula brought he butt down on him with such force that even M. Moreau swore under his breath and M. Janopoulos dropped his cigar. The whites went off, shrugging and gesticulating. M. Moreau turned round suddenly and beckoned to me. He grabbed me by the shoulder. Janopoulos exchanged glances with him. I could feel his hand through my jersey, burning and damp. When we were out of sight of M. Janopoulos, M. Moreau took his hand from my shoulder and began to feel in his pockets. He offered me a cigarette and lit up himself.

'Don't you smoke?' he said, offering me a light.

'Not in the daytime,' I said, not knowing what to say.

He shrugged and took a long draw at his cigarette.

'Tell Madame I'll be over at.....let me see' (he looked at his watch)

'Yes, Sir, yes, Sir,' I said.

He held me by the back of my neck and made me look at him. The cigarette I had put behind my ear fell down. I tried to bend down and pick it up so I would not have to look at him. He put his foot on the cigarette and I felt his fingers tighten on my neck.

'No tricks with me, eh?' he said, under his breath, forcing to stand upright.

'Listen, my lad,' he said, 'those chaps in there.....they know me..... See?' he pointed his thumb over his shoulder towards the prison. Then he smiled and tossed me the packet of cigarettes. His movement was so unexpected that I missed my catch. The packet flew over my head.

Questions:

- (a) Relate the events that lead to this passage. (8mks)
- (b) Identify the themes in this passage and show how they are depicted.(8mks)
- (c) Describe the feelings evoked in you by this passage. (8mks)
- (d) Show the significance of this passage to the rest of the novel. (10mks)

SECTION D

OLE KULET: Blossoms of the Savannah

- 6. How does the title Blossoms of the Savannah relate to the major themes of the novel? (33mks)

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7. Discuss Kulet's use of description in the novel Blossoms of the Savannah.
(33mks)

E N D