PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

1. This question paper consists of 4 pages. Please check that your paper is complete.

2. Read all the questions carefully.

3. You are required to answer all three questions set in this paper.

   Question 1: Texts studied from TWO of the following genres:
   - Prose (Novel)
   - Drama
   - Film

   Question 2: TWO schools of Poetry

   Question 3: Philosophical reflection on your own reading history

4. Number your answers exactly as the questions are numbered.

5. Begin each answer on a new page.

6. Each answer must take the form of a rigorously argued and thoroughly substantiated essay. There is no prescribed length for the set essays, only an expectation that you argue with accuracy and insight about the texts you have read, and that you aim to bring your own voice strongly to the fore in your essays.

7. Please note that the quality of your style of writing, the structure of your argument, and the skill and appropriateness of your use of quotations (as well as direct references to texts) will be taken into account when the markers assess your responses.
QUESTION 1  NOVEL, DRAMA AND FILM

Theme: The danger of a single story

This question requires you to refer closely to TWO texts from each of the TWO genres (prose [novels], drama, film) you have studied, i.e. FOUR texts in total. (You may refer to more than two texts from each of the two genres you have studied.)

Consider the following quotations and respond to the question that follows.

"Fiction was useful as a reminder of the truths under the surface of what we argue about every day, and was a way of seeing and hearing the voices, the multitudes ..."

Barack Obama, President of the United States of America (2009–2017)

AND

"The fact of storytelling hints at a fundamental human unease, hints at human imperfection. Where there is perfection, there is no story to tell."

Ben Okri, poet and novelist

Explore the ways in which your studied texts have provided versions "of seeing and hearing the voices" of the multitudes by giving expression to experiences of "human unease" and "imperfection" in the stories that are told.

Your response must include an exploration of the theme "The danger of a single story".

[100]
QUESTION 2  POETRY

This question expects you to refer to at least THREE poems from EACH of the two schools of poetry that you have studied, i.e. SIX poems in total. You must refer to at least four poets and six poems from the prescribed list but may incorporate additionally studied poems, if you wish to do so.

Use the following poem as a starting point for your engagement with the question that follows.

To Life by Thomas Hardy

O Life with the sad seared\(^1\) face,
   I weary of seeing thee,
And thy draggled cloak, and thy hobbling pace,
   And thy too-forced pleasantry!

I know what thou would'st tell
   Of Death, Time, Destiny –
I have known it long, and know, too, well
   What it all means for me.

But canst thou not array
   Thyself in rare disguise,
And feign\(^2\) like truth, for one mad day,
   That Earth is Paradise?

I'll tune me to the mood,
   And mumm\(^3\) with thee till eve;
And maybe what as interlude
   I feign, I shall believe!

Glossary

\(^1\) Seared: To burn the surface of something with a very strong, sudden heat
\(^2\) Feign: To pretend to have a particular feeling
\(^3\) Mumm: To mask or hide the truth

Hardy suggests that life is not a "paradise" but, rather, is filled with challenges. Using the above poem as a point of departure, critically evaluate the extent to which the poems you have studied share Hardy's view of life.
QUESTION 3 OWN READING

In answering this question, you are expected to consider and make direct reference to FOUR substantial fictional works (novels or collections of short stories) that you have read independently.

Consider the following quotation from William Golding and respond to the question that follows.

The greatest pleasure is ... in just understanding. And if you can get people to understand their own humanity – well, that’s the job of the writer.

William Golding, novelist

Do you agree with Golding's view that the "job of the writer" is to "get people to understand their own humanity"?

Support your judgement by making close reference to your four chosen texts.

[100]

Total: 300 marks