

Mid Term I Examinations-2019

S.1 Literature in English

Time: 2 hours

Read the poem below and then answer the questions that follow

Riddles have always been popular in many parts of the world and people enjoy trying to solve them. Man has a natural and interesting challenge. They are, in fact, a kind of brain teaser'. Other examples of brain-teasers include such things as cryptic crossword puzzles, number puzzles and so on.

In Traditional African societies and Uganda in particular, both adults and children used to enjoy taking part in solving riddles. It was a leisure-time activity which was fun and in some ways quite useful

Adults would often hold riddle-telling sessions when they to pass the time pleasantly while they were waiting for some important occasion to begin-a court session or meeting between in-laws, for example. Children learned a lot about their own culture through riddles and the bright ones would become expert at solving riddles and at making up new ones

In fact, riddles were very good memory training for the children (for nothing was written down, of course). They would learn a very large numbers as they grew older and they would practice telling them. They learned to use them in competitions, too. Riddles also taught the children a lot about people, animals, plants and other natural things which were the subject-matter of many riddles. Here are just examples, from different parts of Africa, which you may know.

Father is in the room and his beard is outside. We tie a horse in the house, but its name flies above the roof.

As you probably guessed, the answer to both these is the same: the fire in the house with smoke coming from the chimney

The way the riddle-game is played is also very interesting. It is a kind of role play where the one who proposes the game(challenge) asks the contestants for permission begin,pose a riddle, and invites to offer solutions. Usually, if they admit being unable to solve the riddle they must agree to ‘send’ him or her to someone wiser or to offer a ‘reward’ before the challenger will give the solution.

Naturally, it is unacceptable for the challenger to pose a riddle and not know the answer to it! In different parts o f the country there were differences in exactly how the game was conducted,but in each place the rules were quiet strict.

Here is an example of the Ateso riddle game;

Challenger: Bothers and sisters,shall I give you a riddles?

Contestants: Yes brother/sister. Do so

Challenger: Are you ready?

Contestant: yes

Challenger: Tell me what my things is: IT GIVES BIRTH AS IT TRAVELS

Contestants:? We are defeated.

Challenger: Then send me to so me one wise

Contestants: Go to chief

Challenger: I went to the chief and told him the riddle