**ARRUPE COLLEGE**

Jesuit School of Philosophy and Humanities

**BA Honours in Philosophy**

**AFRICAN THOUGHT IN AFRICAN LITERATURE APH 105**

**DECEMBER 2015**

**TWO (2) HOURS**

**ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS, AT LEAST ONE FROM SECTION A AND ONE FROM SECTION B. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.**

**Section A**

1. How far do Babamukuru in *Nervous Conditions* and Eugene in *Purple Hibiscus* fulfil the responsibilities that you expect from an African patriarch?
2. ‘The mission in *Nervous Conditions* liberates Tambudzai and Aunt Ifeoma’s house in *Purple Hibiscus* liberates Kambili but after their liberation the two girls have little in common with one another.’ Do you agree with this comment on these characters? If you agree, show how they differ from one another. If you disagree, discuss the similarities between them.
3. ‘In both *Nervous Conditions* and *Purple Hibiscus* there is a continuous tension between modernity and tradition but the modern and the traditional of *Nervous Conditions* are different from the modern and the traditional of *Purple Hibiscus*.’ Do you think this is an accurate comment on the two books? Give reasons for your answer.

**Section B**

1. ‘At the beginning of *Nervous Conditions* Tambudzai writes about her mother’s and Maiguru’s entrapment but if they are both trapped, they are trapped in different ways.’ Discuss this comment on the two characters.
2. ‘Although the missionaries cannot be directly blamed for Nhamo’s death and Nyasha’s mental breakdown the novel suggests that they are ultimately responsible.’ Discuss how far this reading of *Nervous Conditions* can or cannot be justified.
3. A death in a novel sometimes indicates that the system of values that the dead character represents have become irrelevant. Discuss whether the deaths of Papa Nnukwu and Eugene in *Purple Hibiscus* can both be read in this way.
4. ‘*Purple Hibiscus* begins with Jaja’s rebellion and before the novel ends he has accused himself of his father’s murder and has been imprisoned and pardoned.’ How does the novel show these crises in his life are part of his development into manhood?

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**