

Question 5

Poetry

(20 marks)

Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow:

Crazy Peter Prattles

So what is the mountain deal
about the minister's ailing son
that he makes boiling news?

How come it was not whispered
when Tina's hospital bed crawled with maggots
and her eyes oozed pus
because the doctors lacked gloves?

What about Kasajja's only child
who died because the man with the key
to the oxygen room was on leave?

I have seen queues
of emaciated mothers clinging to
babies with translucent skins
faint in line
and the lioness of a nurse
commanding tersely
'Get up or leave the line.'

Didn't I hear it rumoured that
the man with the white mane
and black robes
whose mouth stores the justice of the land
ushered a rape case out of court
because the seven-year-old
failed to testify?

Anyway, I only remember these things
when I drink,
they are indeed tipsy explosions.

['Crazy Peter Prattles' by Susan Nalugwa Kiguli
in *Echoes Across the Valley*: Ed. Arthur I. Luvai and
Kwamchetsi Makokha]

- (a) What problems are highlighted in the poem about the state of health care? (2 marks)
- (b) What is the significance of the rhetorical question in the first stanza? (3 marks)
- (c) Pick out any **two** images in this poem and explain their significance. (4 marks)
- (d) (i) Identify the problem that the fifth stanza deals with. (2 marks)
(ii) How does this connect with the problems in the previous stanzas? (3 marks)
- (e) Explain the meaning of the following words as they are used in the poem. (3 marks)
 - (i) oozed
 - (ii) emaciated
 - (iii) translucent
- (f) What is the significance of the last stanza? (3 marks)