

**QUESTION 3: POETRY – CONTEXTUAL QUESTION**

Read the poem below and then answer the questions that follow.

**THE ZULU GIRL – Roy Campbell**

1 When in the sun the hot red acres smoulder,  
 2 Down where the sweating gang its labour plies,  
 3 A girl flings down her hoe, and from her shoulder  
 4 Unslings her child tormented by the flies.

5 She takes him to a ring of shadow pooled  
 6 By thorn-trees: purpled with the blood of ticks,  
 7 While her sharp nails, in slow caresses ruled,  
 8 Prowl through his hair with sharp electric clicks.

9 His sleepy mouth plugged by the heavy nipple,  
 10 Tugs like a puppy, grunting as he feeds:  
 11 Through his frail nerves her own deep languors ripple  
 12 Like a broad river sighing through its reeds.

13 Yet in that drowsy stream his flesh imbibes  
 14 An old unquenched unsmotherable heat –  
 15 The curbed ferocity of beaten tribes,  
 16 The sullen dignity of their defeat.

17 Her body looms above him like a hill  
 18 Within whose shade a village lies at rest,  
 19 Or the first cloud so terrible and still  
 20 That bears the coming harvest in its breast.

- 3.1 Refer to line 1: 'When in the sun the hot red acres smoulder'.  
 How does this line set the initial mood of the poem? (2)
- 3.2 Explain what the word, 'flings' (line 3) suggests about the girl's state of mind. (2)
- 3.3 Refer to line 11: 'Through his frail nerves her own deep languors ripple'.  
 Discuss the significance of this description in the context of the poem. (3)
- 3.4 The concluding stanza offers visions of the future.  
 Do you agree with this statement? Justify your response by referring to imagery and/or diction. (3)
- [10]**

