Introduction to Haitian Vodou Midterm Preparation Sheet, 2012

Write at least 5 sentences about:
1. Write one paragraph about the identity, mythology, beliefs and oral tradition related to one Vodou lwa.
2. What are some of the themes found in Vodou songs?
3. What are some of the functions of Vodou songs?

Write an exegesis about one of these songs:
1. Lafanmi o ‘Oh the family’
2. Manje Legba ‘Legba’s food’
3. Kay lwa m boule ‘My lwa’s house burned down’

1. Lafanmi o,
an n rasanble (Ayibobo!) nan demanbre a
n pral fè seremoni an. (Adje se la m pral fè maji a mache!)
Limen balenn nan—o an n rele lwa yo.
Sonnen ason an—rele Papa Legba.
Nan kafou a, o nou angaje.
Papa Legba—ouvè baryè pou lwa yo.

Oh my kith and kin,
let’s assemble (Ayibobo!) for the family’s Vodou ceremony,
we’re going to do the service. (Oh my that’s where I’m going to do magic!)
Light the candle—oh let’s call the lwa.
Shake the rattle—call Papa Legba.
At the crossroad, oh we’re in trouble.
Papa Legba—open the gate for the lwa.

Sèvis la pral konmanse o. (Bilolo!) (x2)
Devan baryè a se la m trase vèvè m
ane a pou m fè sèvis lwa yo.
Nan pwent baryè a se la m trase vèvè m
ane a pou m fè sèvis lwa yo. (Ayayay!)
Papa Legba, kouvè a pare
Atibon Legba, kouvè a pare,
Èzili Dantò, kouvè a pare

Legba’s food is on the fire, it’s roasting.
Oh the service is going to begin. (Bilolo!)
In front of the gate is where I traced my vèvè
this year so I can do the service of the lwa.
At the end of the gate is where I traced my vèvè
this year so I can do the service of the lwa.
Papa Legba, the table is ready
Atibon Legba, the table is ready
Èzili Dantò, the table is ready
3.
Kay lwa m boule, li tounen sann o.
M ape mande sa ka ranmase lwa yo?
Mezanmi, kay lwa m boule,
demanbre a la woy.
An n (Fò n) rasanble pou n ka ranmase lwa yo.

My temple of lwa burned down, oh it turned into ashes.
I’m asking what can gather up the lwa?
Oh my, my temple of lwa burned down,
Oh the ceremony is here.
Let’s (We must) get together in order to gather up the lwa

**Determine the key words in the following texts**

*Boukmann’s Prayer*

God who created the sun
that shines on us from above,
who raises the sea,
who makes thunder rumble.
God is there, you hear, hidden in a cloud,
and there, he looks at us,
he sees all that the whites do.
The white God asks for crimes
and ours wants good deeds.
But our God who is so good
commands us to seek vengeance.
He will lead our arms,
He will give us assistance.
Th row away the image of the white God
who is thirsty for our tears.
Listen to the freedom
that speaks in all of our hearts.

10.
Papa Legba, open the gate for me, ago yeah.
Papa Legba, open the gate for me,
so that I can pass through.
When I return, I’ll thank the lwa.
Vodoun Legba, open the gate for me.
Oh open the gate for me, for me to pass through.
When I have passed through I’ll thank the lwa.

*Jean Price-Mars’s Songs*

1.
I come from Ginen,
I don’t have family.
Marasa is family.
I don’t have a father.
I don’t have a mother.
Marasa is family!

**Danbala**
He is of the sky and of the earth, the suns,
Oh my Danbala Wèdo is strong!
Oh he of the sky and of the earth, the suns,
Oh my Danbala Wèdo is strong, yes indeed!
He of the sky and of the earth, sky and earth,
Oh my Danbala Wèdo is strong!

**Identify the following notions:**
Mawu-Lisa
prescriptive religion
lwa dwells in the cemetery
She loves to wear perfume and look beautiful
Gede | Loko | Azaka | Ogou | Danbala

**Identify the lwa associated with these vèvè**

![Vèvè images]

**Use the Appendix A: Dictionary of Vodou terms to study these concepts:**
1. foula
2. Fa/Ifa/Ife
3. dyab
4. gwo bonnanj
5. ti bonnanj
6. twoupo
7. Vilokan
8. Vodou
9. Wanga
10. zonbi
11. Makaya
12. Iwa
13. kreyòl
14. Kolera

Produce a sketch of 3 of the following objects:
- potomitan
- ason
- Rada drum
- Kongo drum
- asen