One Woman's Jihad, Nana Asma'u

1. Beverly Mack and Jean Boyd, One Woman's Jihad, Nana Asma'u (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2000) ISBN # 978-0253213983Required Text• The term paper is based exclusively on Beverly Mack and Jean Boyd, One Woman’s Jihad, Nana Asma’u• You must not use any external sources other than One Woman’s Jihad, Nana Asma’u to write your paper• However, if you seek further information about the poems compiled in One Woman’s Jihad, Nana Asma’u, you can consult the following source: Beverly Mack and Jean Boyd, The Collected Works of Nana Asma’u, 1793–1864. This later source is uploaded to Blackboard. Never use any source other than these two in order for your paper to be graded. Please do not conduct any other extra research for this paper. Your paper will not be graded if you conduct any other extra research not suggested by me. Please submit and upload your term paper onto the Dropbox for Turnitin assignment on Blackboard. Suggested Topics and approaches. The following questions are suggestions. You may select one out of the four questions below to write your paper on. Your specific questions and approaches will all depend on the topic that most interests you, and on the evidence you select. Your paper should not simply supply answers to these questions; they are intended to kick start your creative and critical thinking and ideas about the book One Woman’s Jihad, Nana Asma’u, and its importance. Use the questions to guide you in formulating a thesis and locating evidence to support it. 1. What do you think is the most important aim(s) of Asma’u’s personal jihad? Write a paper which begins by explaining what that is and why you think it is the most important. This paragraph will constitute your thesis. The remainder of the paper, the argument, will support that thesis through the use of evidence drawn from Asma’u’s poems (93–171). (If you choose to write on this, identify what you think is the chief message(s) and virtues that Asma’u valued and sought to propagate, teach, and emulate through her poems).2. What does Nana Asma’u consider to be characters of a virtuous leader or caliph and how do the Prophet Muhammad, Bello, and Uthman dan Fodiyo (Shehu) exemplify these traits? That is, what ideal qualities of a caliph do we find among Bello, Shehu, and the Prophet in the poems? In the course of your essay be sure to discuss the duties of Muslims to the caliphate and their rights against a tyrannical caliph as well as how Asma’u’s experiences during the jihad wars of her father shape her views about politics during 19th century Sokoto (93–171). 3. How are virtuous Sufi women represented in poems of Nana Asma’u? For what qualities did Amsa’u praise Sufi Muslim women, including Aisha, and what similarities and differences do you find between Sufi women’s characters and that of men (such as the Prophet, Bello, and Shehu)?4. To what extent are Nana Asma’u’s accounts of Islam, Sufism, and sunnah of the prophet a product of her education, the politics at the time, her gendered role and responsibilities as a woman (93–171)?