

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURE
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2005

- TITLE OF PAPER** : **INTRODUCTION TO MODERN LITERATURE**
- COURSE CODE** : **AL 101/IDE-AL101**
- TIME ALLOWED** : **TWO (2) HOURS**
- INSTRUCTIONS** :
1. **ANSWER THREE (3) QUESTIONS IN ALL, INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE (1) QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION.**
 2. **DO NOT REPEAT MATERIAL IN YOUR ANSWERS.**
 3. **EACH QUESTION SHOULD BE COMMENCED ON A SEPARATE SHEET.**
 4. **IN THE ASSESSMENT OF THIS PAPER, THE QUALITY OF EXPRESSION AND THE PRESENTATION OF THE ANSWER WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.**

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.

SECTION A

PROSE FICTION

QUESTION 1

KANE, CHEIKH H.:

AMBIGUOUS ADVENTURE

“Learning is forgetting”. Discuss the extent to which this is brought out in the life and experiences of Samba Diallo.

[20 marks]

QUESTION 2

NDEBELE, N.:-

FOOLS AND OTHER STORIES

Discuss the extent to which the lifestyles of the whites control and influence the African way of life in South African townships.

[20 marks]

QUESTION 3

ACHEBE, C.:-

THINGS FALL APART

“Okonkwo personifies his society at the moment when it is most severely threatened.” Discuss.

[20 marks]

QUESTION 4

MAFOLO, T.:-

CHAKA

Discuss this novel as a study of passion and vaulting ambition which lead to the moral destruction of the hero.

[20 marks]

QUESTION 5

LAYE, C.:-

THE DARK CHILD

The story is written out of the need to remember the past, out of a feeling of estrangement. Discuss this view.

[20 marks]

SECTION B**POETRY****QUESTION 6**

p'BITEK, O.: - SONG OF LAWINO

What is incremental repetition? Discuss its use and effectiveness in the poem. [20 marks]

QUESTION 7

Discuss the ways in which Song of Lawino is literature for the community. [20 marks]

QUESTION 8

Discuss some of the most graphic and effective metaphors which depict the poet's repudiation of the borrowed lifestyle Ocol has adopted. [20 marks]

QUESTION 9

SENANU, K. AND VINCENT:- A SELECTION OF AFRICAN POETRY

Describe the underlying message in the poem below and comment on the poet's attitude to its subject. [20 marks]

An Abandoned Bundle

Oswald Mbuyiseni Mtshali

The morning mist
and chimney smoke
of White City Jabavu
flowed thick yellow
as pus oozing
from a gigantic sore.

It smothered our little houses
like fish caught in a net.

Scavenging dogs
draped in red bandanas of blood
fought fiercely
for a squirming bundle.

I threw a brick;
they bared fangs

flicked velvet tongues of scarlet
and scurried away,
leaving a mutilated corpse -
an infant dumped on a rubbish heap -
“Oh! Baby in the Manger
sleep well
on human dung”.

Its mother
had melted into the rays of the rising sun,
her face glittering with innocence
her heart as pure as untrampled dew.

SECTION C: DRAMA

QUESTION 10

Some critics erroneously state that there was no theatre in Africa before the introduction of Western theatre.

- (a) How can you prove that African theatre pre-dates the advent of Western theatre into Africa?
- (b) Describe the origins and characteristics of early Egyptian theatre.
- (c) What characteristics reveal the “Africanness” in African plays? Provide three brief examples from playtexts studied within this course.

[20 marks]

QUESTION 11

Why was it so important for Eulalie to return to Africa in *Dilemma of a Ghost*? Describe the problems she encounters in her process of integration into the African society.

[20 marks]

QUESTION 12

What are the main themes in *Nest in a Cage*? Illustrate your answer with an analysis of the characters' roles in the play.

[20 marks]

QUESTION 13

Who is responsible for the tragedy in *The Gods are not to Blame*? Is it an individual, a group or a few characters in the play? Support your answer with concrete reasons and examples from the play.

[20 marks]