

Course Code: AL102/IDE-AL102(M) 2005

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

- TITLE OF PAPER :**      **INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LITERATURE:  
TRADITIONAL/ORAL AND MODERN LITERATURE IN  
SISWATI**
- CODE OF PAPER :**      **AL102/IDE-AL102 (M)**
- TIME ALLOWED :**      **TWO (2) HOURS**
- INSTRUCTIONS :**
- 1.      ANSWER THREE (3) QUESTIONS IN ALL, AT  
LEAST ONE (1) FROM EACH SECTION.**
  - 2.      EACH QUESTION SHOULD BE COMMENCED ON  
A SEPARATE PAGE.**
  - 3.      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****TRADITIONAL/ORAL LITERATURE (AN INTRODUCTION)****QUESTION 1**

- Kunyonini lokuya  
 Okundizela phezulu  
 Kufana noheshane  
 Inyon'edl' izinkukhu  
 5 Izinkukhu zonkana  
 Zisale ziphithiza  
 Zibethana ngamakhanda  
 Zithi phithi! phithi!  
 Zithi phithi! phithi!

- What bird is there yonder  
 Flying so high in the sky  
 It looks like Heshane (hawk)  
 The bird that eats fowls  
 5 Fowls of all kinds  
 They run helter skelter  
 Head bumping against head  
 Going helter skelter! skelter!  
 Going helter skelter! skelter!

Write a critical appreciation of the piece above on the bird of prey "Heshane" as an oral poem.  
 [25 marks]

**QUESTION 2**

Discuss four (4) of the Siswati proverbs/idioms given below clearly stating how they reflect a "communal lifestyle" that seems to be very highly valued.

1. Umntfwana longakhali ufel' embelekweni.  
A baby who does not cry dies in the cradle on its mother's back.
2. Kwandza kwaliwa batsakatsi.  
Population growth is refused by witches and wizards.
3. Sisu semhambi asingakanani, singangeningila yenyoni.  
The stomach of a traveller is nothing that much, it is as big as the gizzard of a bird.

4. Kupha umuntfu kutibekela.  
To give somebody is to store for yourself.
5. Jika sinkhwa ngenhla uyosifumana ngentasi.  
Throw some bread at upper stream, you will find it downstream.

[25 marks]

**QUESTION 3**

“Riddles are educational because of their varied content, but their primary aim seems to be recreational.” How far do you agree or disagree with this statement? Support your answer with clear illustrations.

[25 marks]

**QUESTION 4**

Using the two versions of the SiSwati oral narrative Inyanyabulembu that you studied, discuss the parts that can be manipulated in an inganekwane, clearly indicating the kinds of variations that are possible depending on the creativity of individual narrators.

[25 marks]

**SECTION B****MODERN LITERATURE IN SISWATI: AN INTRODUCTION****QUESTION 5: THE NOVEL**

Salayedvwa M. Magagula, **Bungani Bebangani**

Discuss the author’s attitude towards Swazi traditions and culture as seen through his characterisation of Bhabha Malambe, the staunch traditionalist.

[25 marks]

**QUESTION 6: DRAMA**

Salayedvwa M. Magagula, **Lilungelo Lakhe**

That “tradition has got to change with the times and adapt accordingly”, seems to be the central message in this drama. Discuss, clearly pin-pointing the episodes where this message is contained.

[25 marks]

**QUESTION 7: POETRY**

N.D. Ntiwane, G.N. Mamba, P.N. Dlamini, **Takitsi**

Read the following extract and then answer the questions on it.

Sitfombe sababe kitsi ngemanyela  
 Sitfombe selihlungu lisandza kushiswa  
 Emehlo kwaba kopha kwengati  
 Umlomo nawo ngalokunjalo wopha

Our father's picture to us is a negative  
 The picture of a pasture of charred grass  
 Of eyes with pupils welling with blood  
 The mouth also welling with blood

(G.N. Mamba, from "Umloyo")

- (a) Explain the portrait that is painted by the images in this extract, clearly articulating the persona's attitude and feelings towards his father communicated by these images.
- (b) Relate this stanza to the rest of the poem from which it has been taken, clearly outlining the poem's overall message.

[25 marks]

**QUESTION 8: THE SHORT STORY**

S.Z. Simelane (ed.), **Emagama Ekutjelwa**

The sharpness of the message about AIDS in the short story "Kutawuba Kanjani" is a result of the expert choice of characters. Discuss.

[25 marks]