

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

TITLE OF PAPER : **MODERN LITERATURE III**
COURSE CODE : **AL 402/IDE-AL4P3**
TIME ALLOWED : **THREE (3) 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

Ba, M.: - SO LONG A LETTER

Discuss the ways in which Ramatoulaye is a dramatized narrator in this novel. [20 marks]

QUESTION 2

HEAD, B.: - A QUESTION OF POWER

Part of the heroine's problem towards self-expression is a result of patriarchal ideology which allows no female participation in the making of history. Comment on this view.

[20 marks]

QUESTION 3

Ngugi wa T.: - PETALS OF BLOOD

Discuss how the detective story motif is mediated by intradiegetic narrative strategies to produce a complex narrative of life and experience of post-independence in the novel.

[20 marks]

QUESTION 4

EMECHETA, B.: - THE SLAVE GIRL

In what ways and to what extent is it valid to say that in this novel the concordance of slavery with marriage is repeatedly emphasized.

[20 marks]

QUESTION 5

ACHEBE, C.: - NO LONGER AT EASE

In what ways does the structure of this novel discourage a hasty condemnation of Obi?

[20 marks]

SECTION B**POETRY****QUESTION 6****RETURN TO MY NATIVE LAND**

The poem presents and enacts the future of the black man as it searches for his identity. Discuss. [20 marks]

QUESTION 7

Identify and discuss instances of irony in "Return to My Native Land". [20 marks]

QUESTION 8**DENNIS BRUTUS**

With reference to specific poems demonstrate how the poet keeps emotion under control. [20 marks]

QUESTION 9

In the poem quoted below comment on how the poet makes words to reverberate in the listeners ear to communicate felt truth.

The sounds begin again,
the siren in the night
the thunder at the door
the shriek of nerves in pain

Then the Keening crescendo
of faces split by pain
the wordless, endless wail
only the unfree know

Importunate as rain
the wraiths exhale their woe
over the sirens, knuckles, boots
My sounds begin again.

[20 marks]

SECTION C: DRAMA

QUESTION 10

- (a) What are the main themes in *The Road* and how are the various characters in the play used to explicate these themes?
- (b) In what ways has language been used in the play and with what effect? [20 marks]

QUESTION 11

What is Theatre for Development (TFD) and what are the characteristics of a TFD play? [20 marks]

QUESTION 12

Trace the genesis of the Ngugis' *Ngahika Ndenda (I will Marry when I want)* and how it has affected the aesthetics of the play. What effect has the play had on the principal playwright's life and what does this imply about the position of radical playwrights in African societies? [20 marks]

QUESTION 13

- (a) What is psychodrama and how does *Playland* fall into the genre?
- (b) What are the topical issues in post-apartheid South Africa as indicated in *Playland*? To what extent can the two characters be described as archetypes in the new society? [20 marks]