

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURE**  
**FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2006**

**TITLE OF PAPER** : **INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE**

**COURSE CODE** : **AL 101**

**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**

MOFOLO, T.: CHAKA

Discuss the various ways in which the hero of this story sacrificed his humanity in pursuit of greatness.

[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

Discuss the view that Okonkwo personifies his society at the moment when it is most severely threatened.

[20 marks]

**QUESTION 4**

KANE, CHEIKH H.: AMBIGUOUS ADVENTURE

Secularism and materialism are the twin forces which are threatening the traditional institutions of the Diallobe people. Discuss.

[20 marks]

**SECTION B**

**POETRY**

**QUESTION 5**

p'BITEK, O.: - SONG OF LAWINO

In what ways and to what extent is Song of Lawino a poem of multitudes rather than that of individual experience? [20 marks]

**QUESTION 6**

Discuss some of the graphic and effective metaphors which depict the poet's repudiation for borrowed lifestyles of the educated Africans. [20 marks]

**QUESTION 7**

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 8**

Ama Ata Aidoo: The Dilemma of a Ghost.

Discuss the cultural conflicts presented in this play.

[20 marks]

Ola Rotimi: The Gods are not to blame

What are the characteristic features of a Greek tragedy? Show how Rotimi uses these features in this play to suit the African setting.

[20 marks]

Wole Soyinka: The Trials of Brother Jero

Discuss this play as a light hearted satire in which Soyinka satirizes false prophets and people who subscribe to cargo cult.

[20 marks]