

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

- TITLE OF PAPER** : **MODERN LITERATURE II**
- COURSE CODE** : **AL 302**
- 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**

BETI, M.: - MISSION TO KALA

In what ways and to what extent is it valid to see the novel as a portrayal of the failure of the intelligentsia to influence change in Africa? [20 marks]

**QUESTION 2**

ACHEBE, C.: - ANTHILLS OF THE SAVANNAH

Discuss the view that storytelling in this novel is not a mere exercise in creativity, but an expression of the daily struggle for survival. [20 marks]

**QUESTION 3**

OYONO, F.: - HOUSEBOY

The behaviour and actions of Toundi in the novel force readers to conclude that he is a victim of comic misunderstanding. Comment on this view. [20 marks]

**QUESTION 4**

ARMAH, A.K.: - FRAGMENTS

Discuss the forces which drive Baako to the mental asylum. [20 marks]

**SECTION B**

**POETRY**

**QUESTION 5**

Discuss the view that Heaven'sgate is rich in images and symbols drawn from the poet's traditional background. [20 marks]

**QUESTION 6**

Discuss the significance of ceremony in the process of reincorporating the prodical from exile in Heavensgate. [20 marks]

**QUESTION 7**

Evaluate Okara's use of imagery in the poem provided below. [20 marks]

**YOU LAUGHED AND LAUGHED AND LAUGHED**

*Gabriel Okara (Nigeria)*

In your ears my song  
is motor car misfiring  
stopping with a choking cough;  
and you laughed and laughed and laughed.

5 In your eyes my ante-natal  
walk was inhuman, passing  
your 'omnivorous understanding'  
and you laughed and laughed an laughed.

10 You laughed at my song,  
you laughed at my walk.

Then I danced my magic dance  
to the rhythm of talking  
drums pleading, but you shut your  
eyes and laughed and laughed and laughed.

15 And they I opened my mystic  
inside wide like  
the sky, instead you entered your  
car and laughed and laughed and laughed.

20 You laughed at my dance,  
you laughed at my inside.

You laughed and laughed and laughed  
But your laughter was ice-block  
laughter and it froze your inside, froze  
your voice froze your ears  
25 froze your eyes and froze your tongue.

And now it's my turn to laugh;  
But my laughter is not  
ice-block laughter. For I  
know not cars, know not ice-blocks.

30 My laughter is in the fire  
of the eye of the sky, the fire  
of the earth, the fire of the air,  
the fire of the seas and the  
rivers fishes animals trees  
35 and it thawed your inside,  
thawed your voice, thawed your  
ears, thawed your eyes, and  
thawed your tongue.

40 So a meek wonder held  
your shadow and you whispered:  
'Why so?'  
And I answered:  
'Because my fathers and I  
are owned by the living  
45 warmth of the earth  
through our naked feet.'

SECTION C

DRAMA

QUESTION 8

Efua Sutherland: The Marriage of Anansewa

“Ananse is Everyman and he is there in every community striving to cling to life and determined to be accepted and recognized in society”. Do you agree.

Wole Soyinka: Kongi’s Harvest

The pot that will eat fact  
Its bottom must be scorched  
The squirrel that will long crack nuts  
Its footpad must be sore  
The sweetest mine has flowed down  
The tapper’s shattered shins

- (a) Discuss the three images and their significance mentioned in this satirical anthem.
- (b) The opening section “Hemlock” is a thematic microcosm of the whole play - Elucidate. [20 marks]

Athol Fugard: The Island

What is the significance of the Sophoclean intertext which reverberates throughout the play. How does it reflect the South African political situation in the apartheid regime?

[20 marks]