

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

TITLE OF PAPER : **MODERN LITERATURE III**

COURSE CODE : **AL 402**

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

Evaluate the view that Ramatoulaye represents many women who are torn between the past and the present, who look back with nostalgia while remaining resolute about the need to introduce modernity.

[20 marks]

QUESTION 2

NGUGI, wa T.:PETALS OF BLOOD

“Those who have
Fallen into things
Throw themselves into soft beds,
They become rare
Like the python
With a bull water buck
In its tummy
They hibernate and stay away
And eat”.

Comment on the appropriateness of this statement which respect to the newly rich post-independence class in Kenya.

[20 marks]

QUESTION 3

HEAD, B.:A QUESTION OF POWER

Discuss the concept of patriarchy and point out how it affects power relations in the world of the heroine.

[20 marks]

QUESTION 4

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 5

RETURN TO MY NATIVE LAND

Discuss the search for identity and hopes for the future in Return to My Native Land.

[25 marks]

QUESTION 6

Discuss the persona's inner struggle in Return to My Native Land as he plans to leave his native land.

[20 marks]

QUESTION 7

LETTERS TO MARTHA

Describe the horror depicted in the poem below and comment on the appropriateness of the imagery.

[20 marks]

One learns quite soon
that nails and screws
and other sizeable bits of metal
must be handed it;

and seeing them shaped and sharpened
one is chilled, appalled
to see how vicious it can be
- this simple, useful bit of steel:

and when these knives suddenly flash
- produced perhaps from some disciplined anus -
one grasps at once the steel-bright horror
in the morning air
and show soft and vulnerable is naked flesh.

QUESTION 8

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

The sounds begin again,
the siven 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

QUESTION 9

“Kilenzi is a song of wrath”. Discuss with reference to the poem.

[20 marks]

SECTION C

DRAMA

QUESTION 10

Wole Soyinka:

Death and the King's Horseman

“Elesin is rejected by the world of the play because he allows himself to be diverted by selfish individualism from the sacrificial death that his Yoruba religion prescribes”. Discuss.

[20 marks]

QUESTION 11

Ibrahim Hussein:

Kinjeketile

Identify the various conflicts in the play and comment on how they depict the theme of disunity in this play.

[20 marks]

QUESTION 12

W.D. Kamera and Nyambura Mpesha: Tera of Gonela

How is the story told in the Epilogue relates to the cannibalistic dictator? [20 marks]

QUESTION 13

Ngugi wa Thiong'o: I Will Marry When I Want

According to Ngugi, "thematically and dramatically this play is about neo-colonial Kenya - the proletarianisation of the peasant" - Discuss. [20 marks]