

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURE
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2007

TITLE OF PAPER: MODERN LITERATURE II

COURSE CODE: AL302/AL-IDE 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

ACHEBE, C.:- A QUESTION OF POWER

Discuss the ways in which passion is a force for change in Kangan. [20 marks]

QUESTION 2

OYONO, F.:- HOUSEBOY

Discuss the tragic aspects of the novel as you comment on the fortunes of the naïve adventurer into the colonial world.

[20 marks]

QUESTION 3

ARMAH, A.K.:- FRAGMENTS

Discuss Naana as a figure of constancy in the novel.

[20 marks]

QUESTION 4

BETI, M.:- MISSION TO KALA

Discuss the theme of the journey and its ironic ramifications in the novel.

[20 marks]

SECTION B: POETRY

QUESTION 5

OKIEBO, C.:- LABYRINTHS

The poetry of Okigbo is marked by conflicts and tensions which find resolutions in religious and intellectual terms.

[20 marks]

QUESTION 6

Discuss the significance of the emblems of celebration and sacrifice which the persona in "Heavensgate" employs to placate the goddess. [20 marks]

QUESTION 7

Discuss how human nature is conveyed through imagery in Mongane Serote's "Ofay-Watcher Looks Back". [20 marks]

OFAY-WATCHER LOOKS BACK Mongane Wally Serote (South Africa)

I want to look at what happened;
That done,
As silent as the roots of plants pierce the soil
I look at what happened,
5 Whether above the houses there is always either smoke or dust,
As there are always flies above a dead dog.
I want to look at what happened,
That done,
As silent as plant show colour: green,
10 I look at what happened,
When houses make me ask: do people live there?
As there is something wrong when I ask – is that man alive?
I want to look at what happened,
That done,
15 As silent as the life of a plant that makes you see it
I look at what happened
When knives creep in and out of people
As day and night into time.
I want to look at what happened,
20 That done,
As silent as plants bloom and the eye tells you:
Something has happened.
I look at what happened
When jails are becoming necessary homes for people
25 Like death comes out of disease,
I want to look at what happened.

SECTION C

DRAMA

QUESTION 8

Athol Fugard: The Island

In this play, “acting becomes both shield and sword to the two prisoners: a means for self protection, for protection of the self and a means for taking action or acting against their captors”. Substantiate.

[20 marks]

QUESTION 9

Wole Soyinka: Kongi’s Harvest

Evaluate the quality of life at the two centres of power in Ismaland: Segi’s Night club and the mountain retreat.

[20 marks]

QUESTION 10

Efua Sutherland: The Marriage of Anansewa

Discuss the African traditional dramatic techniques used in The Marriage of Anansewa.

[20 marks]