

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
FINAL EXAMINATION 2007/ 08**

COURSE NAME: INTRODUCTION TO MODERN LITERATURE

COURSE CODE: AL 101 / IDE AL 101

TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS, ONE FROM EACH SECTION. EACH QUESTION CARRIES 20 MARKS.

2. EACH QUESTION SHOULD BE COMMENCED ON A SEPARATE SHEET.

3. DO NOT REPEAT MATERIAL OR WRITE ABOUT THE SAME TEXT AT LENGTH MORE THAN ONCE.

4. CANDIDATES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BRING ANY READING MATERIAL INTO THE EXAMINATION HALL.

5. IN THE ASSESSMENT OF THIS PAPER, CORRECT USAGE OF ENGLISH, THE QUALITY OF EXPRESSION AND THE PRESENTATION OF ANSWERS WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.

Section – A
Prose

QUESTION 1

Chinua Achebe: Things Fall Apart

Discuss the relationship between the individual and society with reference to events in Achebe's novel.

QUESTION 2

Cheikh Hamidou Kane: Ambiguous Adventure

How adequate do you find Kane's representation of the themes of colonization and modernity in this novel?

QUESTION 3

Thomas Mofolo: Chaka

How does the hero in Mofolo's Chaka sacrifice his humanity in pursuit of greatness?

QUESTION 4

With reference to texts treated in G. D. Killam's African Writers on African Writing, define literature and show how it can be related to life.

Section - B
Poetry

Okot p' Bitek: Song of Lawino

QUESTION 5

How does Lawino compare and contrast the Acoli and western household appliances, equipment, utensils and food in the section titled, "The mother stone has a hollow stomach"?

QUESTION 6

Is Lawino the offended first wife or is she contrasting two different life styles? Base your arguments using episodes from the section titled, "The woman with whom I share my husband."

QUESTION 7

Traditional Poetry: "Breaking Kola nut"

The traditional poem, "Breaking kola nut" presents a lot of information about traditional African society. Isolate and discuss the spiritual and social realities of the people.

QUESTION 8

Read the following poem and answer the question given below:

Slowly the muddy pool

Slowly the muddy pool becomes a river.
Slowly my mother's illness becomes her death.
When wood breaks, it can be mended.
But ivory breaks for ever.
An egg falls to reveal a messy secret.
My mother went and carried her secret along.
She has gone far –

We look for her in vain.
But when you see the kob antelope on the way to the farm,
When you see the kob antelope on the way to the river –
Leave your arrows in the quiver,
And let the dead depart in peace.

Attempt a detailed analysis of the style of this poem, paying particular attention to its form and imagery.

**Section – C
Drama**

QUESTION 9

Ama Ata Aidoo: The Dilemma of a Ghost

Bring out the significance of the ‘ghost’ symbol in the play and explain how it presents the dilemma within the character it represents.

QUESTION 10

Wole Soyinka: The Trials of Brother Jero

In this play, “much of the comedy arises from the discrepancy between what the audience knows Brother Jero to be (by his own confession) and the holy hermit façade which he puts on for the benefit of his deluded gulls.” Substantiate this statement with textual illustrations.

QUESTION 11

Ola Rotimi: The Gods are not to Blame

Is Odewale “a pawn in the hands of Gods” or is he a master of his own fate? Discuss.