

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY 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

What do you see as Okonkwo's strengths and weaknesses in Achebe's novel and how do you explain his change of fortune?

QUESTION 2

Cheikh Hamidou Kane: Ambiguous Adventure

Discuss the ways in which Kane's novel is a distillation of Islamic culture and show how the social milieu of the Diallobe's is impacted by it.

QUESTION 3

Thomas Mofolo: Chaka

Discuss the ways in which passion and uncontrollable ambition leads to the moral destruction of the hero in Mofolo's novel.

Section - B
Poetry

Okot p' Bitek: Song of Lawino and Song of Ocol

QUESTION 4

“In some circles in East Africa, the words Lawino and Ocol have become common nouns and these two characters have become prototypes of two opposing approaches to the cultural future of Africa.” Bring out your opinion with textual illustrations.

QUESTION 5

List and discuss the elements that link Song of Lawino to traditional poetry?

QUESTION 6

How does Lawino expose immorality and religious hypocrisy in the section titled, "I am ignorant of the good word in the clean book"?

QUESTION 7

Traditional Poetry

Read the following poem and answer the questions below:

AS CAMELS WHO HAVE BECOME THIRSTY

As camels who have become thirsty after they have been grazing in
 The Haud for a long time
 And who are stopped in front of the well, while a youth sings to them
 And while the word "hoobay" is chanted and voices interchanged,
 So I grow wild with impatience when you say "Hodan".
 What seems to you so simple, to me brings grief and woe.
 Until people tread earth into her grave, I shall not give up.
 Rapt in a deceitful trance I thought I was sleeping with her
 But it was only that a jinn' counterfeited the image of a sister.
 I aimed to snatch her by her hand – the place beside me was empty.
 When I discovered that I was striving but that no one was there
 I woke up abruptly, having tossed from side to side.
 I rumbled my bed like a prowling lion
 I attacked and pounded the bedclothes as if it were they who had
 caused my deprivation.

I lowered my face, like a hero against whom men have combined.
 I was humbled like a boy from whom a herd of camels, which
 belonged to the clan, were looted.
 I felt disgraced like a woman to whom the words "I divorce you" had
 Been spoken.
 It is degrading to yearn for what you cannot have.
 Alas, alas, what a disaster has come upon me!

hoobay: refrain used in the watering songs

Hodan: the poet's lady love

jinn: a genie or a magical spirit in Arabian fairy tales

- a. Discuss the use of similes in this poem (10).
- b. How does the poet dramatise his love for Hodan? (10)

Section – C **Drama**

QUESTION 8

Ama Ata Aidoo: The Dilemma of a Ghost

Discuss the incidents that bring out the conflict between Eulalie and Ato's Family.

QUESTION 9

Wole Soyinka: Jero's Metamorphosis

How does Soyinka make fun of the hypocrisy and shallowness of the military ruler in Nigeria?

QUESTION 10

Discuss the verbal and visual comedy in Soyinka's The Trials of Brother Jero.