

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

COURSE NAME: MODERN LITERATURE I

COURSE CODE: AL 202 / IDE AL 202

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: Arrow of God

“No man however great is greater than his people; no man ever won judgement against his clan.” Comment on the above assertion with reference to events in Achebe’s novel.

QUESTION 2

Ngugi wa Thiong’o: A Grain of Wheat

The narrator of this novel deals with the present and the past simultaneously. How is he able to do this and what effects does it have on the themes of the novel?

QUESTION 3

Bessie Head: The Collector of Treasures

Discuss how marriage becomes a paralyzing force and a limitation on women’s self-realisation in Head’s short stories.

QUESTION 4

Chinua Achebe: Morning Yet on Creation Day

Comment on the following statement by Achebe:

“I would be quite satisfied if my novels (especially those I set in the past) did no more than teach my readers that their past – with all its imperfections – was not one long night of savagery from which the first Europeans acting on God’s behalf delivered them.”

SECTION – B

POETRY

QUESTION 5

Birago Diop: “Viaticum” and “Vanity”

Discuss Diop’s preoccupation with that aspect of African culture which emphasizes the importance of and the guiding spirit of ancestors with illustrations from the poems, “Viaticum” and “Vanity.”

QUESTION 6

Gabriel Okara: “The snow flakes sail gently down”

How does the poet portray the conflict of cultures and of the confrontation of Europe and Africa in his poem?

QUESTION 7

Khona Khasu: “Our man on Broad Street”

How does the Liberian poet contrast the acquired western ways with that of native African culture in the poem, “Our man on Broad Street”?

QUESTION 8

Oswald Mbuyiseni Mtshali: “Nightfall in Soweto” and “Just a passerby”

Mtshali’s poems are typical manifestations of the segregation of apartheid. Discuss the poet’s portrayal of the life of black people in an oppressive society.

SECTION – C

DRAMA

QUESTION 9

Athol Fugard et al: Sizwe Bansi is Dead

“Fugard’s play is about the meaningless journeys of blacks in a white dominated society that has created the passbook to ensure that black lives are subject to white whims and dominated by white rules.” Substantiate.

QUESTION 10

Wole Soyinka: The Lion and the Jewel

“Baroka and Lakunle represent opposing values which are equated with the opposed principles of life and death.” Discuss with textual references.

QUESTION 11

Ama Ata Aidoo: Anowa

“The play, Anowa embodies a powerful poetic vision of social values in the context of slavery and the position of women.” Do you agree?