

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

Discuss the view that “the tragedy of Ezeulu is that of Umuaro” in Achebe’s novel.

QUESTION 2

Bessie Head: The Collector of Treasures

Comment on how Head’s story-collection focuses on rural life, the status and position of women in Africa.

QUESTION 3

Ngugi wa Thiong’o: A Grain of Wheat

Discuss the motif of expectation and betrayal in Ngugi’s A Grain of Wheat.

SECTION-B

POETRY

QUESTION 4

David Diop: “Africa”

In his poem, “Africa”, Diop portrays three stages in Africa’s history. List the three stages and show how the speaker’s attitude to the new Africa differs from his attitude to the old Africa.

QUESTION 5

Bai Tamiyah Moore: "Harvest Moon"

By close reference to the poem and specific devices used, show how the poet subtly brings out features and characteristics of a typical African society.

QUESTION 6

Read the following poem and answer the question given below:

"Evening"
Stephen Lubega (Uganda)

Never has the death of a poet
Been tolled by all the world.
God's work on earth, though
Has its universal funeral in the west,
Recurrent grave of day's almighty soul.

Never was victory so trumpeted
As that of the sun scorching his fiery way
And then in gorgeous colours falling,
Trailing stars.
Life, death, water and aridity
Bow to this morning ray.

With his passing, death stirs in the thicket.
In church the bell is tolled,
In barracks at the last bugle note
Soldiers like ants file,
The busy woman scolds her child,
Drunkards like sick dogs retch homewards.
The night voice is a harsh guitar

But on a hill among musizi trees
Sweet nuns sing the litanies
Of the virgins whose Son we know.
Priests like lamp posts in a graveyard
Stoop over the breviary.

There's a piping of crickets in the bush
And a bellowing of frogs –
All sing the ancient elegy

For the sun that has died in the west.

Although the title of the poem is “evening” the poet spends much time writing about the sun. Does this enhance or detract the theme?

SECTION – C

DRAMA

QUESTION 7

Athol Fugard et al: Sizwe Bansi is Dead

How do the authors of this play explore the connection between photography and life?

QUESTION 8

Wole Soyinka: The Lion and the Jewel

“Lakunle is infatuated with the vulgar and tawdry in English life.” Do you agree?

QUESTION 9

Ama Ata Aidoo: Anowa

“Anowa, the heroine of the play is caught between defying the conventions of traditional society and refusing to adopt the materialistic values of the rising bourgeoisie.” How does the playwright dramatize change and transition in the traditional matrilineal African society?