

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

COURSE NAME: MODERN LITERATURE II

COURSE CODE: AL 302 / IDE AL 302

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: Anthills of the Savannah

Comment on Achebe's portrayal of women in this novel. (20 marks)

QUESTION 2

Kenjo Jumbam: The White Man of God

Comment on Jumbam's portrayal of the themes of "heaven" and "hell" in his novel. (20 marks)

QUESTION 3

With reference to specific examples, show how either Ngugi wa Thiong'o or Ayi Kwei Armah portrays the postcolonial African society. (20 marks)

QUESTION 4

With reference to specific examples, discuss the amphibious nature of African Literature and show how this literature should be a valid expression of the African experience. (20 marks).

SECTION – B

POETRY

QUESTION 5

Agostinho Neto: "Hoisting the flag"

"Neto's poem is a memorial to the political struggle and a celebration of the national culture." Discuss. (20 marks)

QUESTION 6

Abioseh Nicol: "The Meaning of Africa" and Syl Cheney-Coker: "Freetown"

For Nicol Africa belongs to the one who tills and harvests a piece of plot in his native country but for Cheney-Coker Africa is the civilization that will flower when the entire continent has been freed from "under the yoke of its ferocious subjugation" – Discuss this statement with close reference to Nicol's poem, "The Meaning of Africa" and Cheney-Coker's "Freetown." (20 marks)

QUESTION 7

Read the poem and answer the questions given below:

"Piano and Drums"
Gabriel Okara (Nigeria)

When at break of day at a riverside
I hear jungle drums telegraphing
the mystic rhythm, urgent, raw
like bleeding flesh, speaking of
primal youth and the beginning,
I see the panther ready to pounce,
The leopard snarling about to leap
And the hunters crouch with spears poised;

And my blood ripples, turns torrent,
topples the years and at once I'm
in my mother's laps a suckling;
at once I'm walking simple
paths with no innovations,
rugged, fashioned with the naked
warmth of hurrying feet and groping hearts
in green leaves and wild flowers pulsing.

Then I hear a wailing piano
solo speaking of complex ways
in tear-furrowed concerto;
of far away lands
and new horizons with
coxing diminuendo, counterpoint,

crescendo. But lost in the labyrinth
of its complexities, it ends in the middle
of a phrase at a daggerpoint.

And I lost in the morning mist
of an age at a riverside keep
wandering in the mystic rhythm
of jungle drums and the concerto.

- a. What are the symbols and images in this poem? (10)
- b. Discuss the theme of the poem (10).

SECTION – C

DRAMA

QUESTION 8

Athol Fugard et al: The Island

In this play, “acting becomes both shield and sword to the prisoners: a means for self protection and a means for taking action or acting against their captors and against the state.” Discuss. (20 marks)

QUESTION 9

Efua Sutherland: The Marriage of Anansewa

Sutherland presents Ananse George as a person with great dramatic role and appeal. Discuss the character and explain what tactics he adopts to survive and change his life. (20 marks)

QUESTION 10

F. Ogunleye: A Nest in a Cage

How does the playwright dramatize the attitudes of the younger generation? (20 marks)