

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION 2008/09**

COURSE NAME: INTRODUCTION TO MODERN LITERATURE

COURSE CODE: AL 101 / IDE AL 101

TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. ANSWER 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

Compare and contrast the character traits of Okonkwo and Unoka in Achebe's novel.

QUESTION 2

Hamidou Cheikh Kane: Ambiguous Adventure

Discuss the differences between the French or New School and the traditional way of life in Kane's novel.

QUESTION 3

Njabulo S. Ndebele: Fools and Other Stories

Discuss the theme of superstition and show how it clouds people's rational thinking in the short story, "The Prophetess."

**SECTION – B
POETRY**

Okot p'Bitek: Song of Lawino

QUESTION 4

How does Lawino express her belief that the two ways of life (African and Western) are not equally valid for Africans? Base your arguments using illustrations from the section titled, "The Graceful Giraffe Cannot Become a Monkey."

QUESTION 5

In the section titled, "The Buffalos of Poverty Knock the People Down," Lawino portrays Post-independent Africa as a land full of hatred, covetousness and homicidal impulses." Discuss with relevant textual illustrations.

QUESTION 6

Read the 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.

Discuss the theme of this poem, paying particular attention to its imagery.

**SECTION – C
PROSE****QUESTION 7**

Ama Ata Aidoo: The Dilemma of a Ghost

Discuss the roles played by the first and second woman in Aidoo's play.

QUESTION 8

Wole Soyinka: The Trials of Brother Jero

“Soyinka’s play is a satire on an unscrupulous preacher more interested in money than salvation.” Discuss the character of Brother Jero.

QUESTION 9

Wole Soyinka: Jero’s Metamorphosis

How does Brother Jero, a thorough scoundrel and opportunist, transform the image of his church so as to blend in with the prevailing militarized dispensation of the day?