

AL 203 / IDE AL 203

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

FINAL EXAMINATION -MAY 2009

TITLE OF PAPER: TRADITIONAL/ORAL LITERATURE 1

COURSE CODE : AL 203 / IDE-AL 203

TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS

- INSTRUCTIONS :**
- 1. ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS, CHOOSING AT LEAST ONE (1) FROM EACH SECTION.**
 - 2. EACH QUESTION SHOULD BE COMMENCED ON A SEPARATE PAGE.**
 - 3. CANDIDATES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BRING ANY READING MATERIAL INTO THE EXAMINATION HALL**
 - 4. IN THE ASSESMENT OF THIS PAPER, CORRECT USAGE OF ENGLISH, THE QUALITY OF EXPRESSION AND THE PRESENTATION OF ANSWERS WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUT**

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.

TRADITIONAL/ ORAL LITERATURE 1

INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS, CHOOSING AT LEAST ONE (1) FROM EACH SECTION.

SECTION A: General Theory of Oral Literature

1. Comment on the role of the Oral artist “Imbongi” in Swazi traditional Society. (20 Marks)
2. What is more important in Oral Literature, is it the message (Content) or the way in which the message is delivered (Form)? (20 Marks)
3. How does the contemporary socio-political context influence the Swazi Oral artist? (20 Marks)

SECTION B: Oral Poetry

- 4 Show how each of the following five forms of Oral Literature is popular in Swaziland today and why?
 - a. Topical Poetry. (4 Marks)
 - b. Funeral Poetry “Dirges” (4 Marks)
 - c. Praise Poetry “Panegyrics” (4 Marks)
 - d. Proverbs (4 Marks)
 - e. Folktales (4 Marks)
- 5 Topical Songs have, for their aims, the maintenance of social justice and customs in the community where they are sung. Discuss this statement in the light of Swazi Topical Poetry. (20 Marks)
- 6 Critically analyze the following Curse, paying particular attention to it as an instrument of social control to ensure social conformity. (20 Marks)

I obeyed my fathers and mothers
Now they have died and gone
And I am your leader.
You the young ones, you want to dispute with me,
To dispute with me over wealth,
Dispute with me over raffia bushes,
Dispute with me over traditional things,
Well, unless I affronted my elders.
If I did not affront them

And you stand up to do so to me,
Saying if you affront me what will happen
May ill luck follow you,
May you see people
May you see people.