

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

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

Kenjo wan Jumbam: The Whiteman of God

How does the novelist juxtapose the Christian and the traditional African beliefs in the novel?

QUESTION 2

Buchi Emecheta: The Joys of Motherhood

Discuss the portrayal of women in pre-colonial Africa with special reference to Nnu Ego's Mother.

QUESTION 3

Chinua Achebe: Anthills of the Savannah

Discuss how Beatrice strides between the different worlds portrayed in this novel's narrative.

SECTION – B

POETRY

QUESTION 4

Syl Cheney-Coker's poem, "Freetown" belongs to the "genre of writing by the African writer in exile who sees the entire African continent as his home rather than the individual nation to which he belongs." Discuss.

QUESTION 5

Discuss the theme of cultural conflict in Gabriel Okara's "Piano and Drums."

QUESTION 6

Abioseh Nicol's Poem, "The Meaning of Africa" compares and contrasts a writer's vision and reality of Africa. Bring out the elements that establish this contrast in the poem.

QUESTION 7

Read the following poem and answer the question given below:

Once Upon a Time
Gabriel Okara (Nigeria)

Once upon a time, son,
they used to laugh with their hearts
and laugh with their eyes;
but now they only laugh with their teeth,
while their ice-block-cold eyes
search behind my shadow.

There was a time indeed
they used to shake hands with their hearts;
but that's gone, son.
Now they shake hands without hearts
while their left hands search
my empty pockets.

'Feel at home', 'Come again',
they say, and when I come
again and feel
at home, once, twice,
there will be no thrice –
for then I find doors shut on me.

So I have learned many things, son.
I have learned to wear many faces
like dresses – homeface,
office face, streetface, hostface, cocktailface,
with all their comforting smiles
like a fixed portrait smile.

And I have learned too
to laugh with only my teeth
and shake hands without my heart.
I have also learned to say 'Goodbye'
when I mean 'Goodriddance';
to say 'Glad to meet you'
without being glad: and to say 'It's been
nice talking to you' after being bored.

But believe me, son
I want to be what I used to be
when I was like you. I want
to unlearn all these muting things.
Most of all, I want to relearn
how to laugh, for my laugh in the mirror
shows only my teeth like a snake's bare fangs!

So show me, son
how to laugh; show me how
I used to laugh and smile
once upon a time when I was like you.

How does the poet delineate and juxtapose the change that has occurred in people from the old generation to the younger generation?

SECTION – C

DRAMA

QUESTION 8

Athol Fugard et al: The Island

“Antigone’s defiance of the laws of the Greek state justifies the defiance of the passbook and apartheid laws of the South African state.” Discuss the relevance of Antigone’s predicament with that of John and Winston’s predicament in the play.

QUESTION 9

Efua Sutherland: The Marriage of Anansewa

“I am a father myself. To tell you the truth, I wish I had a little bit of his kind of cunning. It’s very clear that he knows the customs more than well. Notice how he has them at his finger tips, spinning them out, weaving them into a design to suit his purposes.”

Whom does the storyteller refer to and what is the significance of this comment in the play?