

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION 2009/10

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

Elechi Amadi: The Concubine

- a. Do you think the title of the novel, The Concubine, aptly describes the content and context? Provide examples from the novel to support your answer.
- b. Discuss the tragic elements utilized in The Concubine.

QUESTION 2

Bessie Head: The Collector of Treasures and other Botswana Village Tales

- a. “Heaven is not Closed” is a story of protest. Discuss.
- b. What is the ‘cliff-hanger technique’? How was this technique used in “Heaven is not Closed” and how effective was it?

QUESTION 3

Ngugi wa Thiong’o: A Grain of Wheat

Discuss the three areas of interest portrayed in Ngugi wa Thiong’o’s A Grain of Wheat. At what level do these interests converge?

SECTION – B
POETRY

QUESTION 4

Birago Diop's "Viaticum"

Discuss the relationship between the poet, his mother and his ancestors in Birago Diop's poem, "Viaticum."

QUESTION 5

Stephen Lubega's "Evening"

"Although the title of the poem is "evening", the poet spends much time writing about the Sun." Discuss whether this enhances or detracts the poem from its theme.

QUESTION 6

Khona Khasu's "Our Man on Broad Street"

How does the poet mock the ludicrous display of civilised bearing which merely conceals an ignorant and crude inner nature in his poem, "Our Man on Broad Street"?

SECTION – C
DRAMA

QUESTION 7

Ama Ata Aidoo: Anowa

"It is the issue of slavery which creates conflicts between Kofi and Anowa, which leads to the final tragedy of their deaths." Do you agree?

QUESTION 8

Wole Soyinka: The Lion and the Jewel

“The old must flow into the new, Sidi
Not blind itself or stand foolishly
Apart Old wine thrives best
Within a new bottle.”

Discuss the significance of Baroka’s statement with relevant illustrations from the text.

QUESTION 9

Athol Fugard, John Kani and Winston Ntshona: Sizwe Bansi is Dead

How does the play project the economic oppression and degrading working conditions of black South Africans during the apartheid regime?