

AL 203 / IDE AL 203

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION - 2010

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 ACCOUNT

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: ESSAY QUESTIONS ON ORAL POETRY

1. Comment on the role of the Oral artist “Imbongi” in Swazi traditional Society. (20 Marks)
2. How does the contemporary socio-political context influence the Swazi Oral artist? (20 Marks)
3. Comment on the popularity of the following five forms of oral poetry in Swaziland today.
 - a. Love poetry. (4 Marks)
 - b. Dirges (4 Marks)
 - c. Praise Poetry (4 Marks)
 - d. Marriage songs (4 Marks)
 - e. Incantations (4 Marks)
4. 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)

SECTION B: ANALYSIS OF ORAL POEMS.

5. 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.

6. Analyse the following poem with particular reference to content and form. (20 Marks)

Khulile, star of the community,
Khulile, my husband's "Lishende"
Why do you embrace my husband in bed
and hide your face when you see me?
Come beautiful one, do not be shy.
After all, we have both drunk from the same source.
We have both tasted the same meat.
You are also a woman
Why do you hide your head in shame?
I know that your huge head hangs
uneasily on your rope-like neck.
Your jawbones resemble those of a pig
Your breasts are shrivelled up
like bits of cow-hide.
You do look like a sickly and pale
pearl of our community
and one can hear your bones
rattle as you walk.
But you are indeed beautiful
grabber of men,
so beautiful, Khuli, as to attract my man.
You have a good complexion
even though you have turned from black to red.
You have the beauty of the face
even though it is artificial.
I have the beauty of the home
And I am contented with what I have.
Don't be afraid my queen,
I am not jealous,
how can I be jealous of
the age-mate of my mother
even if we share the same man?
Come my husband's lishende
Let us walk in broad daylight,
Let us dance the Umhlanga
So that the community can see
the hyena with whom I share my husband

