

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

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

Buchi Emecheta: The Joys of Motherhood

“I am a prisoner of my own flesh and blood. Is it (being a mother) such an enviable position? The men make it look as if we must aspire for children or die. That’s why when I lost my first son I wanted to die, because I failed to live up to the standard expected of me by the males in my life, my father and my husband – and now I have to include my sons.”

Discuss the events and actions in Nnu Ego’s life that undermine the myth of maternity as a source of happiness.

QUESTION 2

Chinua Achebe: No Longer at Ease

“You may say that I am not broad-minded, but I don’t think we have reached the stage where we can ignore all our customs. You may talk about education and so on, but I am not going to marry an *osu*.”

How does Christopher’s (Obi’s friend) speech bring out the struggle between traditional and modern values in the novel?

QUESTION 3

Mariama Ba: So Long a Letter

“Mariama Ba’s novel demonstrates how gender and culture contribute to the destruction of the protagonist (Ramatoulaye) and her friend’s (Aissatou’s) marriages.” Discuss.

SECTION – B
POETRY

QUESTION 4

How does Agostinho Neto present the dreams, actions, sacrifices and attitudes of the people of Angola in relation to their struggle for independence from the colonial rule, in his poem, “Hoisting the flag”?

QUESTION 5

In his poem, “Piano and Drums,” Gabriel Okara’s voice is the voice of the lonely African and from the perspective of the lonely African, he explores the historical relationship of the two worlds: African and Western. Discuss.

QUESTION 6

Abioseh Nicol’s poem “The Meaning of Africa” portrays the experience of the Westernized African into the pattern of a cyclical journey. Discuss this statement by providing relevant illustrations from the poem.

SECTION – C
DRAMA

QUESTION 7

Athol Fugard: Nongogo and The Island

- a. “During the apartheid regime, black economic survival depends on enslavement to the system or discovering ways to beat or circumvent the system.” Discuss this statement in relation to the characters of Queeny and Sam in Fugard’s Nongogo.

or

- b. How does Fugard fix the Antigone's story as a symbol for John and Winston's plight as well as for all who protest and resist in South Africa in his play, The Island?

QUESTION 8

Efua Sutherland: The Marriage of Anansewa and Edufa

- a. "The mattress on which I try to rest my bones after each day's up-and-down – will it have changed from a straw-stuffed, lumpy mattress to a soft, bouncy dunlopillo? ..., will there be a better, leak-proof roof over my heads? Let alone some comfortable chairs to sit in? A `fridge in the kitchen? A car in the garage? My name on invitation lists for state functions? Embassies parties? ... will I be able to go to memorial services, this week in a fine cloth, next week in a suit or a different cloth?

Ananse's speech is all about poverty and its indignities but it does not make us sad or depressed as we listen to it. Why?

or

- b. "We make an odd pair of friends, to be sure. You with your machines growling at granite in your quarries to crumble and deliver to you their wealth; and I, trying to pay my way in the currency of my songs."

Compare and contrast the characters of Edufa and Senchi.