

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE  
SUPPLEMENTARY 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

“Emecheta’s novel focuses on maternal issues while embracing African women’s problems in general. The wording of the title does not reflect the ‘reality’ in the story.” Discuss the irony employed by the novelist throughout the novel.

QUESTION 2

Chinua Achebe: No Longer at Ease

“In Achebe’s novel, the subjects who have subscribed to the logic of colonial modernity are increasingly haunted by the choices they make, wondering where they stand in the new dispensation.” Discuss the characters of Obi and Clara in relation to the given statement.

QUESTION 3

Mariama Ba: So Long a Letter

Discuss how the male characters in the novel, So Long a Letter take advantage of Islam’s tolerance of plural marriages to justify their actions.

**SECTION – B**  
**POETRY**

**QUESTION 4**

“You are not a country, Africa,  
You are a concept,  
Fashioned in our minds, each to each,  
To hide our separate dreams.”

How do the speaker’s reflections in the poem underscore the above lines taken from Abioseh Nicol’s “The Meaning of Africa”?

**QUESTION 5**

“Antonio Jacinto’s “Love Poem” exudes confidence in the success of the struggle against oppression by drawing images of aspiration from nature’s ability for renewal.” Do you agree?

**QUESTION 6**

Discuss how Syl Cheney-Coker expresses alienation and self-disgust that arise out of his Creole ancestry in his poem, “Freetown”.

**SECTION – C**  
**DRAMA**

**QUESTION 7**

Athol Fugard: Nongogo and The Island

- a. Discuss Queeny and Johnny’s ideas of freedom and what it means to be free to both of them in Fugard’s Nongogo.

**Or**

- b. Fugard's The Island is an actor's play, for acting is its central metaphor and idea: acting as a means for the acting out of one's life, acting as a form of survival and acting as a basis for action." Discuss this statement with relevant textual illustrations.

### QUESTION 8

Efua Sutherland: The Marriage of Anansewa and Edufa

- a. "Oh Ananse. His ways are certainly complicated. It's very possible that these chiefs will be drawn right into his net; and for this affair to turn into sheer profit for him. If negotiations have only reached this stage, is there any law binding him to give his daughter in marriage to any of those four chiefs?"

Discuss as to how Ananse manipulates the four chiefs and point out why he will not be forced by any law to give his daughter in marriage to any one of the four chiefs.

**or**

- b. "My own suit may be shabby, but its shabbiness is of my making. I understand it. It is a guide to self-evaluation. When I stand in it, I know where I stand and why. And that strangely, means to me dignity and security."

Use the above statement of Senchi that shows borrowed robe does not bring dignity, as a comment on Edufa's borrowed life and discuss your views about him.