

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

COURSE NAME: MODERN LITERATURE III

COURSE CODE: AL 402 / IDE AL 402

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 Slave Girl

“The parallelism between slavery and subordination to males is sustained through out the narrative and this strategy aims to impress the relationship between marriage and the commodification of women and girls.” Discuss this statement in relation to the character of Ojebeta in the novel.

QUESTION 2

Ama Ata Aidoo: Changes: A Love Story

“Esi finds polygamy exciting and monogamy stifling.” Explain as to why Esi opts for a polygamous relationship and discuss whether she got the better of both worlds (domestic and professional).

QUESTION 3

Nawal el Saadawi : Woman at Point Zero

“For Firdaus, the protagonist of the novel, the order of life is a succession of disposessions in a world where power is masculine, and access to power a masculinisation.” Discuss the nature of power as depicted in the novel.

SECTION – B
POETRY

QUESTION 4

Read the following poem and answer the question given below.

“A troubadour I traverse ...”

Dennis Brutus (South Africa)

A troubadour, I traverse all my land
exploring all her wide-flung parts with zest

probing in motion sweeter far than rest
 her secret thickets with an amorous hand:
 and I have laughed, disdainful those who banned inquiry and
 movement, delighting in the test
 of will when doomed by Saracened arrest,
 choosing, like unarmed thumb, simply to stand

Thus, quixoting till a cast-off of my land
 I sing and fare, person to loved-one pressed
 braced for this pressure and the captor's hand
 that snaps off service like a weathered strand:
 - no mistress-favour has adorned my breast
 only the shadow of an arrow-brand.

Comment on the conceit of the knight-errant and his mistress, in terms of the poet's relationship with his home country.

QUESTION 5

Kofi Anyidoho's "Long distance Runner" is a critical indictment of white American civilization, which the poet suggests emerged out of the betrayal of minority races like the Amerindians and African Americans." Discuss.

QUESTION 6

Compare and contrast the portrait of the personas, the subject, the community and culture in Eric Mazani's "My grandmother is my Love" and Bonus Zimunya's "Old Granny."

QUESTION 7

"Night Rain"

J. P. Clark (Nigeria)

What time of night it is
 I do not know

Except that like some fish
Doped out of the deep
I have bobbed up bellywise
From stream of sleep
And no cocks crow.
It is drumming hard here
And I suppose everywhere
Droning with insistent ardour upon
Our roof thatch and shed
And thro' sheaves slit open
To lightening and rafters
I cannot quite make out overhead
Great water drops are dribbling
Falling like orange or mango
Fruits showered forth in the wind
Or perhaps I should say so
Much like beads I could in prayer tell
Them on string as they break
In wooden bowls and earthenware
Mother is busy now deploying
About our roomlet and floor.
Although it is so dark
I know her practiced step as
She moves her bins, bags and vats
Out of the run of water
That like ants filing out of the wood
Will scatter and gain possession
Of the floor. Do not tremble then
But turn, brothers, turn upon your side

Of the loosening mats
To where the others lie.
We have drunk tonight of a spell
Deeper than the owl's or bat's
That wet of wings may not fly.
Bedraggled up on the iroko, they stand
Emptied of hearts, and
Therefore will not stir, no, not
Even at dawn for then
They must scurry in to hide
So let us roll over on our back
And again roll to the beat
Of drumming all over the land
And under its ample soothing hand
Joined to that of the sea
We will settle to sleep of the innocent and free.

Doped: Poisoned
Iroko: a sacred tree which counteracts all evil

Discuss the poet's use of imagery, alliteration and onomatopoeia and show how these poetic elements bring out the sense of meaning in the poem.

SECTION – C
DRAMA

QUESTION 8

Wole Soyinka: Death and the King's Horseman

“Through the character of Elesin, Soyinka examines whether it is possible for a man who has been deeply involved in the things of this world finally to cast them off and seek instead the higher good of spiritual duty.” Do you agree?

QUESTION 9

Ngugi wa Thiong'o and Ngugi wa Mirii: I Will Marry When I Want

“According to Ngugi, even though Kenya has attained its independence, the country is still materially and socially controlled and exploited by the colonial forces.” Discuss Ngugi's statement in relation to the play.

QUESTION 10

Athol Fugard: Exits and Entrances

“God knows how I would have played the cardinal or had the wisdom to realise it was my last one, if it hadn't been for the Pigalle cinema and the lesson it taught me. You hit the nail on the head, my boy, when you used the word “humility”! That is what you are left with when your pride, your vanity, your selfishness is slowly stripped away.”

Discuss how the role of the cardinal, played by Andre gives an opportunity for him to voice out his despair and feelings of entrapment.