

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION: NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2010

**TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO TRADITIONAL/ORAL
LITERATURE**

COURSE CODE : AL 113 / IDE-AL 113

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.**

SECTION A: ORIGIN AND GENERAL THEORY OF ORAL LITERATURE

1. What are the main distinguishing features between oral and written literature? (20 Marks).
2. Discuss how the elements of the Swazi universe have affected the creativity of the Swazi oral artist and the subsequent production of its literature (20 marks).
3. Discuss whether oral literature is really relevant to serious scholarship in contemporary Swaziland? (20 marks).
4. Comment on the relationship between the performer, audience and the occasion in the performance of any Swazi oral piece of your choice (20 marks).

SECTION B: FIELD WORK IN ORAL LITERATURE

5. Discuss the techniques which an oral literature researcher may use when collecting Swazi proverbs and riddles (20 marks).
6. Discuss three major changes which oral literature material in siSwati must undergo if it has to be available to a wider audience, outside the Swazi community from which the literature emanates (20 marks).
7. Comment on the following statement by Sekoni Ropo:

“A faithful representation of the PERFORMANCE of oral literature should incorporate as much of its INTRINSIC and EXTINSIC elements as possible to enable us to form the right sort of judgment about the art and culture of a particular society” (20 marks).