

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURE  
SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION 2010/2011

TITLE OF PAPER: CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN POETRY & DRAMA  
COURSE CODE: AL 213/IDE AL 213  
TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. ANSWER THREE (3) QUESTIONS, AT LEAST 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 MATERIALS 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

### Question 1

In his notes on the state of Virginia, Thomas Jefferson observed: "Never yet could I find that a black man had uttered a thought above the level of plain narration, never saw even an elementary trait of painting or sculpture". Does this mean that African theatre developed after contact with the west? If African theatre predates colonization, discuss its **nature, functions, roots and characteristics**.

### Question 2

What is Négritude? Discuss the contributions of Aimé Césaire and Léopold Sédar Senghor to its **Birth and Development**.

### Question 3

Discuss the different phases in the development of contemporary Africa poetry.

## SECTION B DRAMA

### Question 4

**Wole Soyinka: *The Lion and the Jewel***

Discuss the following (a & b) in relation to *The Lion and the Jewel*

- a. Healthy and Destructive Narcissism
- b. Scopophilia/Male Gaze

**Question 5**

**Zodwa Sithebe: *Of heroes and men***

Answer both **a** and **b**.

- a. Discuss the prevalent themes in both published and unpublished plays written by playwrights in Swaziland.
- b. "*Of heroes and men* examines the universal nature of human problems and desires". How true is this expression?

**Question 6**

**Athol Fugard: *Sizwe Banzi is Dead***

Answer both **a** and **b**.

- a. Sketch a brief background of the development of theatre in South Africa.
- b. *Sizwe Banzi is Dead* is a 'Two-hander'. Discuss how this technique impacts upon the development of the characters of Buntu and Sizwe Bansi. Also, discuss Fugard's use of setting in the play.

**SECTION C**

**POETRY**

**Négritude Poetry**

**Question 7**

**David Diop: "Africa"**

Answer questions **a** to **c**

- a. What are the main characteristics of Négritude poetry?
- b. Discuss the use of 'nostalgia' in "Africa" by David Diop.
- c. What are the various poetic devices used in the poem?

**Question 8**

**Léopold Sedar Senghor: "Prayer to Masks"**

Discuss the themes and style of Senghor's Prayer to Masks. Relate these to the historical Context of the poem.

**Lusophone Poetry**

**Question 9**

**Noemia de Sousa: "The Poem of Joao"**

"The Poem of Joao is a celebration of life and liberty". Discuss.