

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE  
MAIN EXAMINATION 2010/2011**

**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****Chinua Achebe: No Longer at Ease**

Okonkwo finds himself in a constant battle between traditions of the world into which he was born (that of the village and his traditional African roots) and the conventions of the changing world.” Discuss this statement with relevant textual illustrations.

**QUESTION 2****Tsitsi Dangarembga: Nervous Conditions**

“Nervous Conditions narrates the struggle for self-determination of two teenage girls and yet never risks trivializing their problems.” Compare and contrast the characters of Tambu and Nyasha.

**QUESTION 3****Adelaide Casely-Hayford: “Mista Courifer”**

How does Casey-Hayford portray the problem of the collision between African and Western elements of culture in an individual’s life?

**Or**

**William Conton: “The Blood in the Washbasin”**

How does the nationalism of a ‘been-to’ conflict with that of the practical sense of a sailor in Conton’s short story?

**SECTION – B**  
**POETRY**

**QUESTION 4****Syl Cheney-Coker: “Freetown”**

... there are those who when they come to plead  
Say make us Black Englishmen decorated Afro-Saxons  
Creole masters leading native races....

Explain the significance of the above lines and discuss how Coker depicts a Sierra Leone of rich tradition violated by the Creole intrusion in his poem “Freetown.”

**QUESTION 5****Agostinho Neto: “Hoisting the Flag”**

“Agostinho Neto is a poet of cultural revindication and social protest.” Discuss this statement in relation to his poem “Hoisting the Flag.”

**QUESTION 6****Antonio Jacinto: “Letter from a Contract Worker”**

How does the poem evoke the feelings of romance, tenderness and admiration, even though the speaker cannot write and the addressee cannot read?

**QUESTION 7****David Rubadiri’s “An African Thunderstorm” (Malawi)**

From the west  
Clouds come hurrying with the wind  
Turning  
Sharply  
Here and there

AL 302/IDE AL 302

Like a plague of locusts  
 Whirling  
 Tossing up things on its tail  
 Like a madman chasing nothing

Pregnant clouds  
 Ride stately on its back  
 Gathering to perch on hills  
 Like dark sinister wings;  
 The Wind whistles by  
 And trees bend to let it pass.

In the village  
 Screams of delighted children  
 Toss and turn  
 In the din of the whirling wind.  
 Women –  
 Babies clinging on their backs –  
 Dart about  
 In and out  
 Madly  
 The Wind whistles by  
 Whilst trees bend to let us pass.  
 Clothes wave like tattered flags  
 Flying off  
 To expose dangling breasts  
 As jagged blinding flashes  
 Rumble, tremble, and crack  
 Amidst the smell of fired smoke  
 And the pelting march of the storm.

- a. Define and illustrate the following types of imagery and figurative language with examples taken from the above poem:
- i. Visual imagery
  - ii. Auditory imagery
  - iii. Olfactory imagery
  - iv. Metaphor and simile
  - v. Personification
  - vi. Overstatement or hyperbole
  - vii. Onomatopoeia

**SECTION – C**  
**DRAMA**

**QUESTION 8**

**Zakes Mda: And the Girls' in their Sunday Dresses**

“In this play, Mda through a brilliantly understated derision of the new rulers and elites shows how the gains of independence are denied to the general populace by a self-satisfied, inefficient and corrupt bureaucracy.” Do you agree?

**QUESTION 9**

**Wole Soyinka: Kongi's Harvest**

“Soyinka’s play is a political satire which represents the clash between the life-giving forces and death-producing forces.” Discuss with relevant textual illustrations.

**QUESTION 10**

**Athol Fugard, John Kani and Winston Ntshona: The Island**

What is the significance of the Sophoclean inter-text which reverberates throughout the play and how does it reflect the South African situation under the apartheid regime?