

AL 403 / IDE AL 403

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE**  
**FINAL EXAMINATION-MAY 2011**

**TITLE OF PAPER:      TRADITIONAL/ORAL LITERATURE 111**

**COURSE CODE    :      AL 403 / IDE-AL 403**

**TIME ALLOWED:      THREE (3) 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.**

**TRADITIONAL /ORAL LITERATURE 111**

**INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS CHOOSING AT LEAST ONE (1) FROM EACH SECTION**

**SECTION A: MYTHS AND LEGENDS**

1. Discuss the two basic categories in the definition of myth as a genre of oral literature (20 marks).
  
2. Comment on the following categories of myths
  - a. Culture myths (4marks)
  - b. Ritual myths (4marks)
  - c. Natural myths (4 marks)
  - d. Creation myths (4marks)
  - e. Myth of the hero (4 marks)
  
3. What is a legend? How does it differ from myths and folktales? (20 marks).
  
4. Discuss the following categories of legends
  - a. Supernatural legends ( 5 Marks)
  - b. Personal legends (5 marks)
  - c. Local legends (5 marks)
  - d. Epic legends (5 marks)

**SECTION B: WOMEN AND ORAL LITERATURE**

5. Discuss the domestic role of traditional Swazi and Zulu women as depicted in the folktales you have studied (20 marks).
6. Comment on the role of women in the narration of Swazi folktales.
7. With relevant examples, discuss the portrayal of Swazi women and girls in the following categories of proverbs:
  - a. Proverbs associated with marriage
  - b. Proverbs associated with morality
  - c. Proverbs associated with authority in the family
  - d. Proverbs associated with motherhood
8. Critically analyze the following praise poem, paying particular attention to the performer's portrayal of Nandi as well as the use of language especially symbolism and imagery:

**Nand's praises**

*USomqeni,*

*UMathanga kawahlangani, .*

*Ahlangana ngokubon'umyeni.*

*UGedegede Iwasenhla nenkundla.*

*UPhoko phalala kuMahwakazi,*

*Angibonang' uphoko ukuphalala.*

*UMboni wamabhuzenge uSontanti.*

*USontanti Onjengowakwa Gwazana.*

*UMsontanti Kayidl' inkom' ensziwana,*

*Udl' ubisi lwenkom' enezimpondo,*

*Ukwesab 'abayisengayo.*

*Intombi kaMbengi weNguga kaSoyengwase KaMaqamande,*

*UXebe woMhlathuze*

*Mfazi ontongande zingamadoda,  
Uyishaye yenyus' isabiza  
UMathanga kawahlangani,  
Ahlangana ngokubon' indoda.  
Obengabafana baseNguga,  
Abeza beluhayizana.*

Father of troubles!  
She whose thighs do not meet,  
They only meet on seeing the husband.  
Loud-voiced one from the upper part of the court.  
She who rushed out to Maqhwakazi,  
I did not see the millet rushed out.  
She who sees confusion, Sontanti,  
Sontanti who is like the daughter of Gwazana;  
Sontanti does not partake of a little hornless cow,  
She drinks the millet of a cow with horns,  
For fear of those who milk it.  
The daughter of Mbengi of the Nguga kraal,  
Son of Soyengwase, son of Maqamande  
Sweetheart of the Mhlathuze valley.  
Woman whose long staves are like those of men,  
Who struck it and it went up the Sabiza river.  
She whose thighs do not meet,  
They only meet on seeing a husband.  
She who was with the boys of Nguga,  
Who came from a small group. (20 marks)