

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
MAIN EXAM 2010/11

**COURSE NAME: SPECIAL PAPER (DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICAN
SHORT SOTRY AS A GENRE)**

COURSE CODE: AL 404 / IDE AL 404

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

**1. ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS. 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.**

1. Compare and contrast at least five differences between a folktale and a short story.
2. "Chinua Achebe's story, "The Madman" combines the devices of verisimilitude that characterize the formal short story with the fabulous themes and formulaic stylistic devices that define the folk tale." Discuss this statement with textual illustrations.
3. "Nadine Gordimer's "Bridegroom" portrays the average Whiteman's lack of consciousness of an unacknowledged friendship with Blacks and their emotional dependency upon them." Substantiate.
4. How does Alex la Guma portray the internal violence of his black characters that find overt expression against themselves and their fellow blacks, in his short story, "Blankets"?
5. How does Tayyib al Salih's short story, "A Handful of Dates" portray the theme of the 'loss of innocence' through the young narrator?
6. How does Aidoo juxtapose the old world wisdom of the mother with that of the modern world confusion of the daughter in her story, "Choosing"?

7. Read the following short story and answer the questions given below:

Taban lo Liyong's "Fixions"

'Well , I have come to talk to you about that project you approached our government about-the one requiring about two million dollars-building a road to your home and a bridge?'

'Yes. Yes. Yes. I was beginning to think you had refused us the grant and I was beginning to search elsewhere.'

'Oh. Be patient. The President, my President, has had a hell of a lot of trouble getting foreign aid approved this year. You know we are tied down in that war of liberation in Vietnam and that is consuming most of our attention and money. But he has been able to just get a little sum of money granted. You were marked down for priority treatment. He himself has sent you this.'

'Oh, thank you very much. Thank you very much. You are really good people.'

'We are friends, *your* friends.'

'Of course. Of course.'

'And our local businessmen. ...'

'Yes? Your businessmen?'

'And our businessmen here have decided to give

you and your wife, I am sorry, your first lady, gifts.'

'Wonderful. Wonderful. Where are they? Let me see them.'

'Here they are. This gold wristwatch is for you. This pendant watch is for your wife, first wife, I mean. I am sorry again.'

'Oh don't mind. Thank you very much. WIFE ? WIFE ? MY MOTHER HOUSE ? ...'

'Eh, stop hollering. What are you calling her here for? It is too late to wake your wife up-I mean your first lady.'

