

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**

**DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE**

**FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION: DECEMBER 2011**

**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. Comment on the differences between the Swazi traditional society of yesterday and that of today. How has this affected the production of Swazi Oral Literature? (20 Marks).
2. (A) Define oral literature (5 marks)  
  
(B) Discuss the important functions of Oral Literature in contemporary Swaziland (15 Marks).
3. Examine the relationship between composition, transmission and performance in Oral Literature (20 marks).
4. "Performance is integral to the whole concept of Oral Literature and presupposes the existence of a performer, audience and occasion." Discuss this statement. (20 Marks)

## **SECTION B: FIELD WORK IN ORAL LITERATURE**

5. Comment on the following features on the nature of transcript in Oral Literature:
  - i. Transcription
  - ii. Translation
  - iii. Structural organization
6. "The modern Swazi oral artist remains rooted within his context commenting on present day happenings." Discuss this statement (20 marks).
7. Discuss the differences between Methods and Techniques in the collection of Swazi oral literature during field trips (20 marks).

Good luck.