

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FUCULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, DECEMBER 2011

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO PROSE FICTION AND PROSE NON-FICTION  
COURSE CODE: AL 212  
TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS  
INSTRUCTIONS: (1) ANSWER THREE (3) QUESTIONS IN ALL, INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE  
QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION.

(2) DO NOT REPEAT MATERIAL IN YOUR ANSWERS.

(3) EACH QUESTION SHOULD BE COMMENCED ON A FRESH SHEET.

(4) CLARITY OF EXPRESSION AND GOOD ORGANIZATION OF CONTENT  
WILL COUNT IN THE ASSESSMENT OF THIS PAPER.

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION TO DO SO HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE  
INVIGILATOR.

SECTION APROSE FICTIONQUESTION 1SECTION A:THE NOVEL

AMADI, E.

THE CONCUBINE

Fate can be defined as a metaphysical/philosophical concept that maintains that one's path in life is predetermined and that one has no control or choice but to walk that path. Even what appears as choice is actually the outworking of this force, fate or predestination. Paying particular attention to Ihuoma, show how, in The Concubine, different characters, as a result of Ihuoma's impact on their lives, veer into a course of action/path of life that they would otherwise not choose.

QUESTION 2

NGUGI WA THIONGO

A GRAIN OF WHEAT

Ngugi's A Grain of Wheat can best be described as a story of betrayal. Closely connected to betrayal are the themes of guilt, and outer appearance versus inner reality.

- (a) Identify at least five (5) betrayals in this novel and discuss them briefly.
- (b) After that, pick a minimum of three (3) characters in the novel and discuss them in the context of betrayal, guilt, and outer appearance versus inner reality.

QUESTION 3SECTION B:PROSE FICTION - SHORT STORY

BESSIE HEAD

A COLLECTOR OF TREASURES

"Head's title, "The Collector of Treasures," is tremendously ironic on the surface, for it would seem that what Dikeledi has collected in her lifetime has been not treasure but heartbreak. Yet Head's opening passages, showing how well Dikeledi has adjusted to prison life and the closeness of the women who have been placed in prison for the same crime, shows that Dikeledi really doesn't feel her life has been that bad. She has learned much more from her hardships than Kenalepe has learned from her good

fortune, and in her travels through life she has managed to earn the respect of men like Paul and women like Kebonye.” Karen Bernado.

Starting from the premise of the above quote, trace the circumstances that have brought Dikeledi to where she has “managed to earn the respect of men like Paul and women like Kebonye.”

SECTION B

PROSE NON-FICTION

QUESTION 5

MODISANE, B.

BLAME ME ON HISTORY

Bloke Modisane opens his Blame me on History with the words, “Something in me died, a piece of me died, with the dying of Sophiatown . . .” Discuss how Modisane crafts an unforgettable lament for a place and a way of life that died with the death of Sophiatown.

QUESTION 6

What is the relevance to South African and beyond, of Modisane’s account of the collision of the multi-racialism of the ANC (African National Congress) and the non-racialism of the PAC (Pan-Africanist Congress) of the late 1950s – early 1960s?