

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
MAIN EXAMINATION 2011/2012**

COURSE NAME: MODERN LITERATURE II

COURSE CODE: IDE AL 302

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. ANSWER 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**

“You may say that I am not broad-minded, but I don’t think we have reached the stage where we can ignore all our customs. You may talk about education and so on, but I am not going to marry an *osu*.”

How does Christopher’s (Obi’s friend) speech bring out the struggle between traditional and modern values in the novel?

QUESTION 2**Tsitsi Dagarembga: Nervous Conditions**

“Nyasha is a product of two worlds and grows increasingly confused of her identity and the hybrid influences of life in England and Rhodesia.” Substantiate this statement with relevant textual illustrations.

QUESTION 3**Mariama Ba: So Long a Letter**

Discuss how the male characters in the novel, So Long a Letter take advantage of Islam’s tolerance of plural marriages to justify their actions.

**SECTION – B
POETRY**

QUESTION 4

Noemia de Sousa: ‘The Poem of Joao’

In Noemia de Sousa’s poem, “Joao is not only an individual, but also an embodiment of the indomitable spirit of protest against oppression and exploitation wherever these exist in the world.” Discuss this statement.

QUESTION 5

Antonia Jacinto: “Love Poem”

“Jacinto’s poem has a pervading optimism throughout the poem and it reflects the love and tenderness towards the land and its people during their struggle against colonialism.” Discuss this statement.

QUESTION 6

Gabriel Okara: “Piano and Drums”

Discuss the poetic devices that Okara employs to depict the theme of cultural conflict in his poem, “Piano and Drums.”

**SECTION- C
DRAMA**

QUESTION 7

Athol Fugard: The Island

“The play, The Island is an act of open defiance, an assertion of human dignity and an unequivocal affirmation of the inherent nobility of humanity.” Discuss the survival techniques used by John and Winston to keep their humanity and sanity intact in a hostile environment.

QUESTION 8

Zakes Mda: And the Girls' in their Sunday Dresses

Compare and contrast the character traits of The Woman and The Lady in Mda's play.

QUESTION 9

Wole Soyinka: Kongi's Harvest

Discuss the three images from the opening section (Hemlock) and show how these images summarize the play's themes.