

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

**COURSE NAME: ADVANCED STUDIES IN THE AFRICAN NOVEL AND  
BIOGRAPHY/AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

**COURSE CODE: AL 313 / IDE AL 313**

**TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

**1. ANSWER THREE (3) QUESTIONS, ONE FROM SECTION – A AND  
TWO (INCLUDING THE COMPULSORY QUESTION) FROM SECTION  
– B. 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 FICTION**

**QUESTION 1****Chinua Achebe: No Longer at Ease**

He (Obi) no longer felt guilt. He, too, had died. Beyond death there are no ideals, no humbug, only reality. The impatient idealist says: ‘Give me a place to stand and I shall move the earth.’ But such a place does not exist. We all have to stand on the earth itself and go with her at her pace.”

With reference to the above quotation, discuss as to how Obi the idealist’s optimism fades and is being replaced by Obi the materialist’s pessimism.

**QUESTION 2****Chenjerai Hove: Bones**

“The stories in the novel intertwine to form a history of the lives of the peasants . . . . Each story serves to further humanize the speaker as it brings forth their individual identity through their own voice and experience.” Comment with relevant textual illustrations.

**QUESTION 3****Tsitsi Dangarembga: Nervous Conditions**

“The narrator of the novel categorizes women into “escaped females”, “entrapped females” and “rebellious females.”

Choose any **one** of the categories above and discuss the characters that belong to the category.

**SECTION – B**  
**BIOGRAPHY / AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

**QUESTION 3 (COMPULSORY)**

Write short notes on:

- a. Ethnographic autobiography
- b. Political memoir

**QUESTION 4**

**Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom**

“Under apartheid, a black man lived a shadowy life between legality and illegality, between openness and concealment. To be a blackman in South Africa meant not to trust anything, which was not unlike living underground for one’s entire life.”

Comment on the above statement and relate it to Mandela’s underground living.

**QUESTION 5**

**Hilda Kuper: Sobhuza II: Ngwenyama and King of Swaziland**

Discuss how the Western world overlapped with the African (Swazi) world in the young King Sobhuza’s education.