

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION
JULY 2013

COURSE NAME: INTRODUCTION TO POETRY AND DRAMA

COURSE CODE: AL 114 / IDE AL 114

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. ANSWER THREE (3) QUESTIONS. CHOOSE ATLEAST ONE QUESTION 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
POETRY**

QUESTION ONE

Okot p' Bitek: Song of Lawino and Song of Ocol

“Ocol and Lawino have become prototypes of two opposing approaches to the cultural configuration of Africa.”

Compare and contrast the characters of Lawino and Ocol in relation to the statement given above.

QUESTION TWO

“The Poor Man”

(Swahili traditional)

The Poor man knows not how to eat with the rich man.
When they eat fish, he eats the head.

Invite a poor man and he rushes in
licking his lips and upsetting the plates.

The poor man has no manners, he comes along
with the blood of lice under the nails.

The face of poor man is lined
from hunger and thirst in his belly.

Poverty is no state for any mortal man.
It makes him a beast to be fed on grass.

Poverty is unjust. If it befalls a man,
though he is nobly born, he has no power with God.

“Hunger”

(Yoruba Traditional)

Hunger makes a person climb up to the ceiling
And hold on to the rafters.
It makes a person lie down --
But not feel at rest.
It makes a person lie down –

Unable to stand.
 It makes a person to lie down –
 And count the rafters.
 When the Moslem is not hungey, he says:
 ‘We are forbidden to eat monkey.’
 When Ibrahim is hungry he eats a baboon!
 When hunger beats the woman in the harem,
 She will run out into the street in daytime.
 One who is hungry does not care for taboos.
 One who is hungry does not care for death.
 One who is hungry will take
 Out of the sacrifice money.
 When death shuts the door,
 Hunger will open it.
 ‘I have filled my belly yesterday’
 Does not concern hunger.
 There is no God like one’s throat.
 We have to sacrifice daily to it.

Compare the above two poems and comment on the differences in emphasis and attitude you find expressed in them.

QUESTION THREE

“As camels who have become thirsty”

(Somali traditional)

As camels who have become thirsty after they have been grazing in
 the Haud for a long time
 And who are stopped in front of the well, while a youth sings to them
 And while the word “hoobay” is chanted and voices interchanged,
 So I grow wild with impatience when you say “Hodan”.
 What seems to you so simple, to me brings grief and woe.
 Until people tread earth into her grave, I shall not give up.
 Rapt in a deceitful trance I thought I was sleeping with her
 But it was only that a jinn counterfeited the image of her sister.
 I aimed to snatch her by her hand – the place beside me was empty.
 When I discovered that I was striving but that no one was there
 I woke up abruptly, having tossed from side to side.
 I rumbled my bed, like a prowling lion
 I attacked and pounded the bedclothes as if it were they who had
 caused my deprivation.
 I lowered my face, like a hero against whom men have combined.
 I was humbled like a boy from whom a herd of camels, which

Belonged to the clan, were looted.
I felt disgraced like a woman to whom the words "I divorce you" had
been spoken.
It is degrading to yearn for what you cannot have.
Alas, alas, what a disaster has come upon me!

"The whole poem is a texture of similes that portray the futility of the poet's longing
and rage." Discuss.

SECTION – B

DRAMA

QUESTION FOUR

Ama Ata Aidoo: The Dilemma of a Ghost

Discuss how a woman's roles are defined in African culture and show with relevant
textual illustrations, how it conflicts with Eulalie's character in the play.

QUESTION FIVE

Wole Soyinka: The Trials of Brother Jero

In Soyinka's play, the character Amope is a foil to Brother Jero. Do you agree? Give
your answer with relevant textual illustrations.