

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

MAIN PAPER EXAMINATION MAY 2012/2013

TITLE OF PAPER: CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN FICTION AND NON-FICTION

COURSE CODE: AL 212/IDE AL 212

TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS

1. ANSWER THREE (3) QUESTIONS, ENSURING THAT YOU DO NOT ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS ON A SINGLE TEXT. EACH QUESTION CARRIES 25 MARKS.

2. EACH QUESTION SHOULD BE COMMENCED ON A FRESH SHEET.

3. DO NOT REPEAT MATERIAL OR WRITE ABOUT THE SAME TEXT AT LENGTH MORE THAN ONCE.

4. DO NOT BRING ANY READING MATERIAL IN TO THE EXAMINATION HALL.

5. IN THE ASSESSMENT OF THIS PAPER, CLARITY OF EXPRESSION AND OVERALL GOOD USE OF ENGLISH EARNS MARKS.

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

SECTION A

Chinua Achebe , Arrow of God and Mongo Beti, The Poor Christ of Bomba

Question 1

“By definition, a tragedy is the fall of a great man, and not just any man, through some flaw in him. In Arrow of God, Achebe crafts a larger than life man in Ezeulu and ensures that this man is brought down by the very attributes that raised him up.” By paying close attention to the characterization of Ezeulu, respond to this quote.

Question 2

“Palm wine in Arrow of God is more than a social drink but a crucial means of developing the plot of the story as well as some of the prominent characters.” To what extent is this view supportable?

Mongo Beti – The Poor Christ of Bomba

Question 3

“Christianity appears as a wholly laughable matter in Cameroon.” What humorous devices does Beti employ in his depiction of Christianity in The Poor Christ of Bomba?

Question 4

Both Dennis and Zacharia permit us to assess Fr Drumont’s character and execution of his religious mission in the Cameroon. Assess the validity of each character’s perspective on Fr Drumont’s character and success on his religious mission.

SECTION B

Alex La Guma – A Walk in the Night

Question 5

Discuss the cinematographic elements of A Walk in the Night.

Question 6

“Anger or rage and lurking danger are the two most dominant elements of atmosphere in La Guma’s A Walk in the Night.” To what extent do you agree with this assessment of the story?

END