

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FUCULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, SECOND SEMESTER 2014

- TITLE OF PAPER: CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN POETRY AND DRAMA
- COURSE CODE: AL 213/ IDE AL 213 MAIN PAPER
- TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) 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 A

POETRY

QUESTION 1

Read the Abioseh Nicol poem, 'Words of wisdom and love' and critically analyze it paying attention to the poetic devices used by the poet to illuminate the business of 'reading' poetry. 25 points

QUESTION 2

Discuss Negritude poetry and South African antiapartheid protest poetry. What commonalities and divergences do these poetic traditions display? 25 points

QUESTION 3

Of the Swazi poets you have studied, who do you find most effective and why? Use this poet's work to support your views.

SECTION B

DRAMA

Do not attempt two questions from one play text in this section.

Woyengi by Obotunde Ijimire

QUESTION 4

In your view, why is it challenging to apply a feminist reading of the play, *Woyengi*? 25 marks

QUESTION 5

“As a reader evaluating Ogboingba’s character I am torn in two: I can’t decide whether to blame or sympathize with her for being dissatisfied with a destiny she herself chose; and I can’t decide whether to blame or sympathize with her desire to escape a desolate barren life.” Pick a side of this debate and justify it with evidence from the text.

Enshungunshwini by Z. Sithebe

QUESTION 6

Read the brief excerpt.

- (a) What is the significance of LaGwazela’s (sur) name in the context of the result of her advice to LaTsela? 3 points
- (b) What rhetorical devices does LaGwazela use to persuade LaTsela to do something she apparently would not have considered doing. 10 points
- (c) How is the theme of evil handled in the excerpt and in the overall play? 12 points

QUESTION 7

Discuss the portrayal of the supernatural in the plays you have read in *Enshungunshwini*?

Words of wisdom and love

Words are like shells
 Many see only their outer hardness
 But the wise hold and open them
 And sometimes find within them hidden pearls.

5 Words are like lightning strokes
 Many see only frightening flashes
 But the wise pause and wait
 And hear the echo of their great thunder.

Words are like moonflowers by day
 10 Many see only their bunched leafy fists
 But the wise linger till after twilight
 And watch them open spilling out their sweet fragrance.

Words are like high towering waves
 Many see only the hurl of their long angry curl
 15 But the wise stand waiting by the white sand
 And feel the gentle soothing trickle of their spent force.

So, Africa, when you say to me
 In quiet urgency you love me
 (Oh you are a torn confused and ravaged land
 20 Your strange uncertain love like shifting tides)
 That I must stay and serve your needs
 I pause and ponder
 I stop and wonder.

Perhaps you hold within you
 25 Some hidden gleaming pearl
 Some future majesty
 Some strange sweet fragrance of moonlit nights
 I walk along your foam-flecked shores
 Your words hold promise

30 And are not empty
 I have gained wisdom and shall wait.

LaGwazela: Yini? Ucinisile? Musa kungidzina wena! Pho ukhalelani? Ulindzele kubindziswa ngubani vele? Musa kusihlolela LaTsela. Yekela kutetema. Hlikihl' emehlo yeTfwabalele. Utawukhala kudzimate kube ngunini? (Abindzise LaTsela). Uphi yena loSitani wakhona?

LaTsela: Kusho kutsi uvukele ekulandzeni emasi nelubisi lena kaKhalaliyanconga. Lilanga lako.

LaGwazela: Lalela lapha. (Asahlebahleba). Yekela bonkhe lubulima lonabo, bekutekana nendzaba yekutibulala. Tiga tini nje leto? Ufe-ke wena silima, basale boSitani naBulunga langemuva? Tinyembeti tengwenya tigcine khona lapho emathuneni? Hlakanipha mfati! Vuka emacandzeni yehhe? Kani kusho kutsini lokutsi mfati? Nhhe? (Abindze LaTsela). Phela loko kusho kutsi 'ufa wati.' Yelamthuthu ubobuta lakitsi ngemhlaba uma ungate. Asikho sikhatsi sekudlala. Uma ngabe wetfwele inyandza yetinkhuni utsi usahamba ubone nyomu inyoka enyandzeni. Wenta njani? (Abindze LaTsela). Uyayibuka wena lenyoka, bese uhlala phansi utsi cha ayivele ikucedzise ngoba awukayiboni nawutfota? Wentanjani ngingaketeleli? Wentanjani mnganami?

LaTsela: Wu! Ngingadzimula phansi inyandza lapha khashane bese ngiyagadla kucala ingate ingigece solo ngingaketeleli.

LaGwazela: Uyabona-ke? Nako-ke! Nanyalo phela wena sewephutile ngoba seyite yagadla kwekucala. Wena nje tsatsa tinsiti takhona uncandze sihlungu sayo. bese vele uyasiphalata ucedze konkhe ngayo leyo nyoka yakho losolo uyigcine etinkhunini.

LaTsela: Kanjani? Ngisewani nje mine emhlabeni?