

AL 214 / IDE AL 214

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE  
FINAL EXAMINATION-MAY 2014

TITLE OF PAPER: TRADITIONAL/ORAL LITERATURE 1

COURSE CODE : AL 214 / IDE-AL 214

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

- INSTRUCTIONS:
1. ANSWER QUESTION ONE, AND TWO OTHER QUESTIONS. IN ALL, ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS
  2. EACH QUESTION SHOULD BE COMMENCED ON A SEPARATE PAGE.
  3. CANDIDATES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BRING ANY READING MATERIAL INTO THE EXAMINATION HALL
  4. IN THE ASSESMENT 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.

## ORAL POETRY

### QUESTION ONE

Comment on imagery in the following extract from the praises of King Mahlokohla, Ngwane V, father of Sobhuza 11, showing how it attests to the theory that “The praises of the kings are not so much about the edification of these figures as individuals, but rather the poetry constitutes an appraisal of the king’s reign.”

*Hloh Dvoye  
Nangelutsi Iwemkhonto bewungahlohla  
Uhlohle timbiba taphuma tenta buhlakalala  
Taye tabanjwa ngudalad’ esangweni  
Lapha kaZombodze we Magugu*

*Wena-kemkotha ngozi umlom ’uleti  
Ngulohhamusa bantu bangenaboya  
Kantsi babefute wena Ngwane*

*Ligodze limnyama lika Dlamini  
Lalilapha kaZombodze weMagugu  
Kudala ligwagil’ emadvodza  
Laye lawagila ngisho nasemacakaleni*

*Mfelokazi lomanyonganyona  
KaNgwan’ akusethwalwa zintambo  
Sekuyawethwalw’ izishezi*

*Kungabe wena Ngwane laph’ etindleleni  
Bengingakufanisa nalenjani?  
Bengingakufanisa nalevundlako  
Kungabe wena Ngwane laph’ etinkhomeni  
Bengingakufanisa nani?  
Bengingakufanisa nenshivazana  
Kutsi Ngwane laph’ emantini  
Bengingakufanias nani?  
Bengingakufanisa nesitiba lesiluhlat injojololo  
Kutsi Ngwan’ etinyamataneni  
Ngikufanise nalenjani  
Bengingakufanisa  
Lowawufohl’ emahlatsini kubomangulube*

**QUESTION TWO**

Discuss the nature of Swazi oral poetry and its place in human society (20 Marks).

**QUESTION THREE**

“Marriage is a drama where everybody is an actor or an actress and not just a spectator.” Comment on the validity of the above statement by John Mbiti with special reference to Swazi wedding songs (20 Marks).

**QUESTION FOUR**

Discuss the idea that “although praise poetry basically extols the good qualities of their objects, they sometimes satirize or even criticize the bad ones”. Use relevant examples to justify your answer (20 marks).

**QUESTION FIVE**

Which of the following five forms of Oral Poetry is popular in Swaziland today and why?

- a. Topical Poetry
- b. Funeral Poetry ( Dirges)
- c. Praise Poetry (Panegyrics)
- d. Lullabies
- e. Religious poetry

**QUESTION SIX**

Discuss the prevalence of “images of beauty” in tinanatelo, citing the “Shabangu”, “Mkhonta”, “Mnisi” and “Motsa” clan praises as examples, concentrating on the few lines provided under each surname below. Also state what is praised through these images.

**a. Shabangu**

Mbhele

Loluhlata njengencoshane

**b. Mkhonta**

Mhlungwane

Loluhlata njengencoshane

**c. Mnisi**

Mvulane

Mdlalose

Wena lowadlala indlala Kanye

Ingabe Kusasa utawudlalani (20 marks).

**QUESTION SEVEN**

To what extent does the Swazi poet use aspects of his/her environment for projecting his/her personal feelings? Choose any three oral poems as examples.