

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION
DECEMBER 2013

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

COURSE CODE: AL 414 / IDE AL 414

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS, ONE FROM EACH SECTION. EACH QUESTION CARRIES 20 MARKS.**
- 2. EACH ANSWER SHOULD COMMENCE 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: NOVEL

QUESTION ONE

Ama Ata Aidoo: Changes: A Love Story

Can a woman succeed in balancing a happy marriage with a challenging career without compromising her freedom and independence? Discuss this issue in relation to the characters of Esi and Opokuya in Aidoo's Changes.

QUESTION TWO

Nawal El Saadawi: Woman at Point Zero

How does Firdaus describe the nature of power between men and women?

SECTION –B
PROSE FICTION: SHORT STORY

QUESTION THREE

Chimamanda N. Adichie: “Transition to Glory”

How does the shifting narration of Adichie's short story bring out the affected personality of the protagonist, Oziomo?

QUESTION FOUR

Nadine Gordimer: “Is there Somewhere Else Where We can Meet?”

“In the dark room of fear one sees only the images of one's own nightmares; they may or may not truly be embodied in some external reality.” Substantiate this statement with textual illustration from the short story.

SECTION – C

PROSE NON-FICTION: BIOGRAPHY/AUTOBIOGRAPHY

QUESTION FIVE

Buchi Emecheta: Head Above Water

“People still expect me to feel honoured because like my mother a price had been paid on my head. “Had I really progressed?” ... Here was I in England thinking that the African woman had really progressed, but had she? Then the voice of my Chi came and said to me, “of course she has progressed, a great deal.”

What is the custom that Emecheta describes in the above quotation? Show how it threatens to clamp her independence.

QUESTION SIX

Bessie Head: A Woman Alone

How does Head’s life in Serowe alleviate her sense of alienation and displacement?