

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION
APRIL 2014

COURSE NAME: THEMATIC STUDIES IN AFRICAN POETRY AND DRAMA

COURSE CODE: AL 415 / IDE AL 415

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

“Even though Rubadiri’s “Stanley Meets Mutesa” and T. S. Eliot’s “The Journey of the Magi” focus on two different themes, T. S. Eliot’s Magi, seeking out the new-born Christ have become the explorer Stanley and his commandeered band of porters bringing new dispensation to Mutesa.” Write a critical assessment of this statement.

QUESTION TWO

How does Kofi Anyidoho create an informal setting and tone to make a stern judgement on a civilization without sounding self-righteous, in his poem “Long Distance Runner”?

QUESTION THREE

“..... it isn’t enough
to go in search of the lone hero
while the common thief inherits our ancient stools...” (Anyidoho’s “Hero and Thief”)

“How can I stay here
Where rascals are heroes?
Where murder and maiming
Receive loud thunderous acclaim.” (Tuurosong’s “I Don’t Belong Here”)

Compare and contrast the thematic concerns in Kofi Anyidoho’s “Hero and Thief” and Damascus Tuurosong’s “I Don’t Belong Here” paying particular attention to the given extracts above.

SECTION – B
DRAMA

QUESTION FOUR

Wole Soyinka: Death and the King's Horseman

“Death and life are seen as parallels in the first scene, and even when they meet, they meet in harmony and in the final scene they become an encounter, and death, instead of being a continuation of life becomes an escape from it.” Discuss this statement in relation to the events portrayed in scenes one and five.

QUESTION FIVE

Athol Fugard: Exits and Entrances

“God knows how I would have played the cardinal or had the wisdom to realise it was my last one, if it hadn't been for the Pigalle cinema and the lesson it taught me. You hit the nail on the head, my boy, when you used the word “humility”! That is what you are left with when your pride, your vanity, your selfishness is slowly stripped away.”

Discuss how the role of the cardinal, played by Andre gives an opportunity for him to voice out his despair and feelings of entrapment.

QUESTION SIX

Ngugi wa Thiong'o and Ngugi wa Mirii: I Will Marry When I Want

How does Ngugi recreate the past and the future through the dramatic elements of song and dance in the play? Give relevant textual illustrations.