

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION
JULY 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

How does the poet Kofi Anyidoho juxtapose the idea of hero and thief while portraying the inverted values in postcolonial Africa in his poem, "Hero and Thief"?

QUESTION TWO

Define and comment on the following poetic devices used by David Rubadiri in his poem, "An African Thunderstorm" and show how these devices contribute to the overall meaning of the poem." (The poem is attached at the end)

- a. Visual imagery
- b. Auditory imagery
- c. Onomatopoeia
- d. Simile
- e. Metaphor

QUESTION THREE

Compare and contrast the portrayal of cities at night in O. M. Mtshali's "Nightfall in Soweto", Kofi Awoonor's "Harlem on a Winter Night" and Dennis Brutus' Nightsong: City."

SECTION – B
DRAMA

QUESTION FOUR

Wole Soyinka: Death and King's Horseman

“In Death and the King's Horseman, Soyinka explores the Yoruba cosmological understanding of the relationship between man, the gods and the ancestors which is in direct contradiction to the Christian and European emphasis on the individual and European salvation.” Substantiate this statement with relevant textual illustrations.

QUESTION FIVE

Athol Fugard: Exits and Entrances

“My greatest security, my most certain sense of myself lies in pretending to be someone else.”

Discuss Andre as an actor for whom the stage is a place where he lives out, lives and dreams that he does not necessarily have in his real life.

David Rubadiri's "An African Thunderstorm" (Malawi)

From the west
Clouds come hurrying with the wind
Turning
Sharply
Here and there
Like a plague of locusts
Whirling
Tossing up things on its tail
Like a madman chasing nothing

Pregnant clouds
Ride stately on its back
Gathering to perch on hills
Like dark sinister wings;
The Wind whistles by
And trees bend to let it pass.

In the village
Screams of delighted children
Toss and turn
In the din of the whirling Wind.
Women –
Babies clinging on their backs –
Dart about
In and out
Madly
The Wind whistles by
Whilst trees bend to let us pass.
Clothes wave like tattered flags
Flying off
To expose dangling breasts
As jagged blinding flashes
Rumble, tremble, and crack
Amidst the smell of fired smoke
And the pelting march of the storm.