

AL 416 / IDE AL 416

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

FINAL EXAMINATION-MAY 2014

TITLE OF PAPER: TRADITIONAL/ORAL LITERATURE 111

COURSE CODE : AL 416 / IDE-AL 416

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

- INSTRUCTIONS:
1. ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS, CHOOSING AT LEAST ONE (1) FROM EACH SECTION
  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.

**INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS CHOOSING AT LEAST ONE  
(1) FROM EACH SECTION**

**SECTION A: MYTHS AND LEGENDS**

**QUESTION ONE**

1. Discuss the relationship between myth, literature and culture (20 Marks).

**QUESTION TWO**

2. "African myths are full of instances of the cruelty of the gods". Giving multiple examples from the myths you have studied, discuss the reasons for god's cruelty and justify them. What does the cruelty of the gods say about the African view of the universe? (20 marks).

**QUESTION THREE**

3. "The world speaks to man and to understand its language, he needs only to know the myths and decipher its symbols." Discuss (20 Marks)

**QUESTION FOUR**

4. Comment on the different categories of legends in traditional African societies (20 marks)

**SECTION B: WOMEN AND ORATURE**

**QUESTION FIVE**

5. "The lot of the married woman in traditional Swazi society is a very hard one, though the young maidens are not entirely excluded from this condition." What evidence can be gathered in support of the above statement from the portrayal of female characters in Swazi oral literature (20 Marks).

**QUESTION SIX**

6. With relevant examples, critically examine the power and powerlessness of women in African oral literature (20 Marks)

**QUESTION SEVEN**

7. To what extent can it be argued that the songs and stories where women or girls feature as central characters represent a voice of the oppressed? (20 Marks).

**QUESTION EIGHT**

8. From your study of women and oral literature in Africa, compare representations of masculinity with representations of femininity. How are they similar or different? In what ways do they similarly or differently affect men's and women's perceptions of themselves? (20 Marks)