

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION
MAY 2015**

COURSE NAME: INTRODUCTION TO POETRY AND DRAMA

COURSE CODE: AL 114 / IDE AL 114

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. ANSWER THREE (3) QUESTIONS. CHOOSE AT LEAST 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 EXPRESSIONS 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

Okot p' Bitek: Song of Lawino and Song of Ocol

- a. Discuss Lawino's and Clementine's concept of beauty and show how they differ from one another, even though they are African women who share the same husband. Pick your illustrations from the sections titled, "The Woman with Whom I share My Husband" and "The Graceful Giraffe Cannot become a Monkey."

Or

- b. "The Post-independent Africa is projected as a land full of hatred, covetousness and homicidal impulses." Substantiate this statement with relevant illustrations from the section titled, "The Buffalos of Poverty Knock the People Down."

QUESTION TWO

How does p'Bitek present the conflict between the old and the new and at the same time reveal a remarkable sensitivity to the values of both in the Song of Ocol?

QUESTION THREE

“As camels who have become thirsty”**(Somali traditional)**

As camels who have become thirsty after they have been grazing in
the Haud for a long time
And who are stopped in front of the well, while a youth sings to them
And while the word “hoobay” is chanted and voices interchanged,
So I grow wild with impatience when you say “Hodan”.
What seems to you so simple, to me brings grief and woe.
Until people tread earth into her grave, I shall not give up.
Rapt in a deceitful trance I thought I was sleeping with her
But it was only that a jinn counterfeited the image of her sister.
I aimed to snatch her by her hand – the place beside me was empty.
When I discovered that I was striving but that no one was there
I woke up abruptly, having tossed from side to side.
I rumbled my bed, like a prowling lion
I attacked and pounded the bedclothes as if it were they who had
caused my deprivation.
I lowered my face, like a hero against whom men have combined.
I was humbled like a boy from whom a herd of camels, which
Belonged to the clan, were looted.
I felt disgraced like a woman to whom the words “I divorce you” had
been spoken.
It is degrading to yearn for what you cannot have.
Alas, alas, what a disaster has come upon me!

Read the poem given above and discuss the poet’s dramatization of his love for Hodan by
paying particular attention to the poetic devices used.

SECTION – B

DRAMA

QUESTION FOUR

Ama Ata Aidoo: The Dilemma of a Ghost

“In the play, Ato becomes a ghostly wayfarer because of his inability to confront history and to become conscious of his own complexities and limitations.” Discuss this statement with textual illustrations.

QUESTION FIVE

Wole Soyinka: The Trials of Brother Jero

“The cutting edge of Soyinka’s satire falls on both Jeroboam and his clients, the latter for their spiritual blindness and the former for both his immorality and deceit.” Substantiate.