

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION
JULY 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. How does Lawino expose the immorality and religious hypocrisy in the section titled, "I am Ignorant of the Good Word in the Clean Book"?

Or

- b. Compare and contrast the Acoli and Western household appliances, utensils and food habits as presented by Lawino in the section titled, "The Mother Stone has a Hollow Stomach."

QUESTION TWO

How does Ocol denounce Lawino's attitudes ~~and justifies his own~~ while delighting in the joys of urban comforts in Song of Ocol?

QUESTION THREE

Read the following poem and identify and discuss how the poet has used figurative language (similes, metaphors, personification) and imagery to portray the picture of an African thunderstorm.

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.

SECTION – B

DRAMA

QUESTION FOUR

Ama Ata Aidoo: The Dilemma of a Ghost

“Ato’s romance of his return and his wife’s return to Africa underscores the idea that the play is as much about the complexities of exile and alienation as it is about the difficulties of return.” Discuss the theme of exile and alienation in the play with relevant textual illustrations.

QUESTION FIVE

Wole Soyinka: The Trials of Brother Jero

Discuss the Trickster motif in Soyinka’s play.