

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE  
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER,  
TITLE OF PAPER: ADVANCED STUDIES IN AFRICAN NOVEL AND AUTO/BIOGRAPHY  
COURSE CODE: AL 313/ IDE AL 313 – SUPPLEMENTARY PAPER  
TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS IN ALL, INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION
- (2) DO NOT ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS FROM ONE TEXTBOOK
- (3) DO NOT REPEAT MATERIAL IN YOUR ANSWERS
- (4) EACH QUESTION SHOULD BE COMMENCED ON A NEW SHEET
- (5) CLARITY OF EXPRESSION AND GOOD ORGANIZATION OF CONTENT WILL COUNT IN THE ASSESSMENT OF THIS PAPER
- (6) EACH QUESTION IS WORTH 33 MARKS.

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION TO DO SO HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR

SECTION A

SHORT FICTION

Question 1

Read the excerpt beginning, "... bantfwabami angeke ngize ... " and answer the questions that follow.

- (a) Is this an ordinary or a special day for the family gathered here? Give textual evidence for your answer. 3 points
- (b) In what esteem is gogo Shiba held? Give textual evidence for your answer. 2 points
- (c) What physical condition is gogo Shiba's rocking chair meant to alleviate? Identify the literary device that describes this condition and comment on its richness. 5 points
- (d) Discuss the use of atmosphere and idiom in this passage and comment on how these magnify the subject of the passage. 23 points

Question 2

"Some characters are the story." Discuss a short story of your choice that supports this view.

SECTION B

LONG FICTION

*Anthills of the Savannah* by Chinua Achebe

Question 3

What thematic mileage does Achebe gain in *Anthills* ... through the deaths/killings of minor and major characters?

Question 4

"The depiction of Beatrice is pivotal to the cultural politics that Achebe is advancing in *Anthills* ... ." To what extent do you agree with this view? Support your response with textual evidence.

SECTION C

PROSE NON-FICTION

*The Fear* by Peter Godwin

Question 5

Discuss parallels and divergences in the portrait of Achebe's fictional dictator, Sam, and Peter Godwin's real life dictator's Robert Mugabe.

*I Write What I Like* by Steve Biko

Question 6

"The attitude of some rural African folk who are against education is often misunderstood, not least by the African intellectual" (Steve Biko in *I Write What I Like*). In the context of this text and your knowledge, qualify Biko's sympathy for rural African folk who are against education. Biko also touches on other instances showing that western modernity (or the reception thereof by Africans) has had deleterious effects to African dignity. Discuss these as well.

Question 7

Imagine you're a book sales representative and you're tasked with selling Biko's *I Write What I Like* to students of the University of Swaziland, Kwaluseni campus. Explain to the student body that the issues this book raises can inform their grasp of their postcolonial situation and empower them to situate their advocacy of student as a politically conscious youth more effectively.

END

“... bantfwabami angeke ngize ngilikhohlwe-ke lelo langa. Yincane nayitekwa! Kodywa vele lolusizi lolungaka unghumbutelani nje nangu Thulile.”

Sasho salukati senkhosi satsi kufinkhifinkhita kancane, sakhapha liduku lekufinya satesula lokungayinzawo. Sabindzisa satsi kugijigijimisa emehlo endlini yonkhana. Lapho phela wonkhe umuntu lolapha endlini emehlo uwatsite ndlo kuye phela gogo webantwana, umnikati welikhaya. Lokwebatukulu kwakhe kona kumtsite bunge, kwase kuhlala letotinkhanyeti temehlo letivele nato tihlabe kuye gogo ngco. Nako phela kulindzele leyo ndzabandzini mamncane wakho Thulile lasayikhumbute gogo, lese imuletsela netujejana nekufinkhifinkhita lokungayinzawo.

Lapha endlini kugcwele kuyaminyetelwana. Gogo Shiba phela lamuhla ngugogo ngelibito nje. Lamuhla ufana namakoti lucebo lwakhe. Tintfombi takhe timembatsise shengatsi uyewukhangisa, uva nangemakha lamandzi latsaphuka kugogo, ungdzimate utsi uya embukisweni. Tintfombi takakhe LaShiba tona tihleti etitulweni letibosofa. Ematibulo ato nawo ahleti khona kubosofa. Gogo Shiba yena utihlalele esitulweni sakhe lesigencetelako. Lesitulo asihlaliseki sihamba ngaso sonkhe sikhatsi sincane semuntu alolotela luswane. Siya emuva siye nasembili kancane nje, kube ungdzimate utatatele utsi bona simlahle phansi bo, uphindze utsi usegadze loko ubuye usibone sesitsi bona sigenuke naye. Size sibinzise uma vele umnikati asibambe wasimisa ngenhloso. Pho-ke, magencetela ndzini wesitulo uhluphe bani ngoba nemnikati sewuvene umetayele?

Indzaba yesitulo magencetela yincane nayitekwa phela ngoba lesinguLaShiba sasicala sashaya ngendvuku phasi satsi basihluphelani vele. Sasho nekusho kutsi sona angeke sichwakele esitulweni lapha emtini weMalangeni. Pho-ke sasikhulumia nabani ngoba nebantfwabaso ngebutsatfu babo, nabo bebashaye ngendvuku phansi batsi imali yabo angeke ibe yekudlala. Bavele bakhonkhosela kutsi situlo magencetela kumele asetjentiswe khona kutowuke kuphole nanankhu umgogodla lohlala ukhonkhotse njalo lapha esalukatini, sincane semdlwane localisa kukhonkhotsa, ubonela kubatali bawo.