

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION
JULY 2015

COURSE NAME: ADVANCED STUDIES IN AFRICAN POETRY AND DRAMA

COURSE CODE: AL 314 / IDE AL 314

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**

From the perspective of the lonely African, Okara explores the historical relationship of the two worlds (African and Western) in his poem, “Piano and Drums.” Substantiate this statement with relevant illustrations from the poem.

QUESTION TWO

Analyse Antonio Jacinto’s poetic depictions of colonial exploitations such as contract labour, alienation and displacement of Africans in his “Letter from a Contract Worker.”

QUESTION THREE

“my heart becomes a citadel of disgust
and I am unable to write the poem of your life
my creation haunts me behind the mythical dream
my river dammed by the poisonous weeds in its bed”

(Syl Cheney-Coker’s “Freetown”)

What is the significance of the above lines and how does Cheney-Coker portray the conflicting emotions of wanting to claim an African patrimony and yet knowing that he has a creole parentage which he refers to “the agony planted in my soul”?

SECTION – B

DRAMA

QUESTION FOUR

Athol Fugard: The Island

“Acting is the central metaphor and idea in Fugard’s play where it is used as a form of survival and as a basis for political action.” Do you agree? Give reasons.

QUESTION FIVE

Zakes Mda: And the Girls in their Sunday Dresses

“Tell me, why are we still here? Why are we still waiting? We are even fighting over the use of chair. Because we are waiting. Life passes by and we are onlookers. We are like the sedated who slept through revolution.”

How does Mda portray the idea that political inertia should be abandoned for more active and radical forms of resistance against injustices in the society? Take your cue from the above quotation.