

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION
DECEMBER 2014

**COURSE NAME: THEMATIC STUDIES IN THE AFRICAN NOVEL AND
BIOGRAPHY/AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

COURSE CODE: AL 414 / IDE AL 414

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS, ONE FROM EACH SECTION. EACH QUESTION CARRIES 20 MARKS.**
- 2. EACH ANSWER SHOULD COMMENCE 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

PROSE FICTION: NOVEL

QUESTION ONE

Ama Ata Aidoo: Changes: A Love Story

“In Aidoo’s novel, the conventions of the love story are subverted in order to reveal that love is never divorced from politics or economics.” Substantiate with textual illustrations.

QUESTION TWO

Nawal el Saadawi: Woman at Point Zero

“Firdaus’ voice which speaks with urgency and strength is the voice of a real rather than a fictional person and is the mark of a desire not to be silenced or defeated, a desire to impose oneself on an institution of power, from the position of the excluded or the marginal.”

Discuss.

SECTION – B

PROSE FICTION: SHORT STORY

QUESTION THREE

Chimamanda N. Adichie: “Transition to Glory”

“...and now she was even more annoyed that Agha had gotten a phone just for her calls and she wanted to say ‘no, I can’t see you today and go to hell at that.’ But she said ‘yes’.”

Comment on the portrayal of intergenerational romantic relationship and show how the above quotation reflects the personality shift of the protagonist in Adichie’s short story.

QUESTION FOUR

Veronique Tadjo: "A Sunny Afternoon"

'Intuition doesn't lie', she said to herself. 'It was all there. I saw it in his eyes, in the way he looked at me.'

'I was so engrossed in my own feelings, so shut up in my own world that I did not understand.'

Discuss the above quotations in relation to the protagonist's perception of life using instinct and reason and show how the perception affects her sense of security and identity.

SECTION – C

PROSE NON-FICTION: BIOGRAPHY / AUTOBIOGRAPHY

QUESTION FIVE

Buchi Emecheta: Head Above Water

"My mother has paid your bride price. Your people asked and accepted more than five times the normal price and I think you should be pleased. Not many families are willing to pay that much on a woman."

Identify the speaker and discuss the implications intended through this statement and analyse how the custom of bride price affects Emecheta's life.

QUESTION SIX

Bessie Head: A Woman Alone

How does Head portray her sense of alienation and search for historical continuity and roots?