

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

COURSE NAME: THEMATIC STUDIES IN AFRICAN POETRY AND DRAMA

COURSE CODE: AL 415 / IDE AL 415

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

Compare and contrast David Rubadiri's "Stanley Meets Mutesa" and T. S. Eliot's "The Journey of Magi" and show how the poets delineate political and spiritual encounter in their respective poems that bring out the historic change in their societies.

QUESTION TWO

How do the poets, David Diop and Kofi Awoonor address the Africans who lose their national and personal identity and merge themselves into the dominant culture of the colonial people, in their poems "The Renegade" and "We have found a new land," respectively? Pay attention to the tone and the images used. The poems are attached at the end of this question paper.

QUESTION THREE

"So the thieving hand has reaped much more than farm owner
and the harvest dream transforms into slow funereal hopes
the rice harvest has gone to weaverbird
the corn-on-cob has gone to grasscutter
the yam-in-the-mound was carried off by rat..." (Kofi Anyidoho's "Hero and Thief")

"I can't stay here
Where the beer-bellied blokes
Eat the misery meal of the refugee;
Where drunkards drink the blood
Of the anaemic child." (Damasus Tuurosang's "I don't Belong Here")

Comment on the inverted values in postcolonial African society as portrayed by the Ghanaian poets in their poems. Take your cue from the above excerpts.

SECTION – B

DRAMA

QUESTION FOUR

Wole Soyinka: The Strong Breed

“Eman is human enough to prefer a quiet life to a life of self-sacrifice, but eventually an inner urge which he is unable to resist drives him on to accept the burden of self-sacrifice.”

Substantiate with textual illustrations.

QUESTION FIVE

Athol Fugard: Exits and Entrances

“What I saw tonight was a journey from arrogant pride to humility.”

Whose words are these and who is the character addressing? Discuss with relevant textual illustration about the journey that the character refers to in the above quotation.

QUESTION SIX

Ngugi wa Thiong’o and Ngugi wa Mirii: I Will Marry When I Want

Show how African and Western cultures are contrasted through two different sets of characters (the Kiguundas and the Kiois), in the play.

David Diop's "The Renegade" (Senegal)

My brother you flash your teeth in response to every hypocrisy
 My brother with gold-rimmed glasses
 You give your master a blue-eyed faithful look
 My poor brother in immaculate evening dress
 Screaming and whispering, and pleading in the parlours of condescension
 We pity you
 Your country's burning sun is nothing but a shadow
 On your serene 'civilized' brow
 And the thought of your grandmother's hut
 Brings blushed to your face that is bleached
 By years of humiliation and bad conscience
 And while you trample on the bitter red soil of Africa
 Let these words of anguish keep time with your restless step –
 Oh I am lonely so lonely here.

renegade: a deserter

Kofi Awoonor's "We have found a new land"

The smart professionals in three piece
 Sweating away their humanity in dribblets.
 And wiping the blood from their brow
 We have found a new land
 This side of eternity
 Where our blackness does not matter
 And our songs are dying on our lips.
 Standing at hell-gate you watch those who seek admission
 Still the familiar faces that watched and gave you up
 As the one who had let the side down,
 "Come on, old boy, you cannot dress like that"
 And tears well in my eyes for them
 Those who want to be seen in the best company
 Have abjured the magic of being themselves
 And in the new land we have found
 The water is drying from the towel
 Our songs are dead and we sell them dead to the other side
 Reaching for the Stars we stop at the house of the Moon
 And pause to relearn the wisdom of our fathers.