

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

**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

Buchi Emecheta: The Slave Girl

Comment on Emecheta's use of the *Ogbanje* ('a living dead') myth to represent the state of her gender in a society that denies the female any measure of self-determination.

QUESTION TWO

Ama Ata Aidoo: Changes: A Love Story

Compare and contrast the three contemporary African transitional female figures in the novel.

SECTION – B

PROSE FICTION: SHORT STORY

QUESTION THREE

Chimamanda N. Adichie: "Transition to Glory"

How does the "absent father factor" affect the protagonist in Adichie's short story?

QUESTION FOUR

Nadine Gordimer: “Is there Somewhere Else Where we can Meet?”

“Every vestige of control, of sense, of thought, went out of her as a room plunges into dark at the failure of power.”

Discuss the woman’s consciousness in relation to the given statement above and show how Gordimer effectively uses the painterly technique to portray the consciousness of the woman in her story.

SECTION – C

PROSE NON-FICTION: BIOGRAPHY / AUTOBIOGRAPHY

QUESTION FIVE

BUCHI EMECHETA: HEAD ABOVE WATER

“Why did I want a man whose ideas I could listen to and who would listen to mine, who would regard me as a person, a companion, a wife and yes, and would do his own share of the housework? Maybe I was ahead of my time. I decided that people like me, who go against tradition must die!”

What is the relevance of this statement to Emecheta’s life and how does she connect herself with her heroine Akunna in The Bride Price?

QUESTION SIX

BESSIE HEAD: A WOMAN ALONE

What are Head’s South African preoccupations and how does she include them as the thematic concerns in her works?