

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2016

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO TRADITIONAL LITERATURE/ORAL LITERATURE

COURSE CODE: AL113 (for IDE students)

TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS
- (2) YOU DO NOT EARN CREDIT IF YOU UTILIZE ONE ORAL PIECE ON MORE THAN ONE QUESTION
- (3) COMMENCE EACH QUESTION ON A NEW SHEET
- (4) CLARITY OF EXPRESSION AND EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION OF RESPONSE CONTENT WILL COUNT IN THE ASSESSMENT OF THIS PAPER
- (5) EACH QUESTION IS WORTH 33 MARKS

QUESTION 1

Two features of orature is its reliance on performance and its communal nature. Discuss how these two features are connected and how their connectedness contributes to the soul of oral literature.

QUESTION 2

Where orature is concerned, innovation is more important than composition." Discuss this view with the aid of an oral piece of your choice.

QUESTION 3

"Indeed, some oral narratives sound far-fetched and bizarre; but it is these very attributes that conceal the skill of the performers." What skills of performance are masked by far-fetched and bizarre narratives? Discuss this question with support from an oral narrative of your choice.

QUESTION 4

It has been suggested that lullabies reveal more about the mother or baby-sitter than about the baby. To what extent do you agree with this view? Support your response with evidence from lullabies of your choice.

QUESTION 5

Proverbs re-familiarize while riddles de-familiarize. Use examples of your choice to discuss how these two fixed forms of orature achieve their disparate ends. What social purpose do these forms serve in their communities?

QUESTION 6

Discuss the key features of Swazi (or Nguni) praise poetry. Use illustrations from your own choice of praises.