

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION
DECEMBER 2015

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

COURSE CODE: AL 313/IDE AL 313

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS, AT LEAST 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

Chinua Achebe: No Longer at Ease

“To the naive converts like Obi and his father Isaac, the written word symbolises white power which also portends black spiritual decay and death.” Discuss the protagonist’s cultural estrangement in relation to the above statement.

QUESTION TWO

Chenjerai Hove: Bones

“Hove’s use of naming (of the oppressed) in the novel can be viewed as a key to the reaffirmation of individual identity which is denied by the oppressors who lump the oppressed in one anonymous collectivity.” Examine this statement with relevant textual illustrations.

QUESTION THREE

Mariama Ba: So Long a Letter

Comment on the thematic texture of female friendship and its healing powers in relation to the two main characters in the novel.

SECTION – B
PROSE NON-FICTION: BIOGRAPHY / AUTOBIOGRAPHY

QUESTION FOUR

Hilda Kuper: Sobhuza II: Ngwenyama and King of Swaziland

What is an ethnographic autobiography / biography? Would you consider King Sobhuza II's biography as an ethnographic one? Give reasons for your answer.

QUESTION FIVE

Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom

“To be the father of a nation is a great honour, but to be the father of a family is a greater joy. But it was a joy I had far too little of.”

What is the context in which Mandela voiced the above statement? Discuss Mandela's role as a father and explain how it clashed with his role as a leader of the nation.

QUESTION SIX

Write short notes on the following:

- a. Uses of autobiography as a genre
- b. Types of autobiography / biography (list all the types and explain briefly any **two** types)