

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION
JULY 2016

**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

“Obi Okonkwo’s education has brought him status and has placed him in a position where others expect the most and best of him. No one can understand in the end, how a man of his education and promise could take a bribe.”

Discuss the corruptibility of the civil servants with special reference to Okonkwo’s character. Take your cue from the above quotation.

QUESTION TWO

Chenjerai Hove: Bones

“In the novel, Hove uses the metaphor of “bones” to mean the spiritual self but in the eyes of the oppressors, “bones” are limited to physical strength, which is temporary and diminishes with age and disappears with death.” Compare and contrast these different images with textual illustrations.

QUESTION THREE

Mariama Ba: So Long a Letter

Apart from depicting the female condition in her novel, Mariama Ba also explores and illustrates how women collude with the very institutions that oppress them. Discuss the religious and social practices that rationalize the oppressive and selfish behaviour of individuals portrayed in Ba’s So Long a Letter.

SECTION – B

PROSE NON-FICTION: BIOGRAPHY / AUTOBIOGRAPHY

QUESTION FOUR

Hilda Kuper: Sobhuza II: Ngwenyama and King of Swaziland

Discuss with textual evidence, how the British / Western system of education overlaps the Swazi / African system of education in the life of King Sobhuza II.

QUESTION FIVE

Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom

What does the name “Black Pimpernel” connote? Discuss the circumstances and incidents that contributed to Mandela being referred to as the Black Pimpernel.”