

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

COURSE NAME: ADVANCED STUDIES IN AFRICAN POETRY AND DRAMA

COURSE CODE: AL 314 / IDE AL 314

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 ANSWER 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

Syl Cheney-Coker: “Freetown”

my river dammed by the poisonous weeds in its bed
and I think of my brothers with “black skin and white masks”
(I myself am one heh heh heh)

.....
there are those who when they come to plead
say make us Black Englishmen decorated Afro-Saxons
Creole masters leading native races

What do the above lines signify and how do these lines relate to the poet’s sense of alienation and his focused rage towards the betrayal of the black bourgeoisie?

QUESTION TWO

Gabriel Okara: “Moon in the Bucket”

How does the poet express his concern for the violence and ravages of war and destruction of human life in this poem? Pay particular attention to the form and the poetic devices used in the poem.

QUESTION THREE

Noemia de Sousa: “The Poem of Joao”

“If protest poetry is defined as an expression of liberation – poetry of personal response to oppression based on assumptions of justice, rights and human dignity,” will it be right to categorize de Sousa’s poem as a protest poem? If you agree, provide reasons, making illustrations from the poem.

SECTION-B

DRAMA

QUESTION FOUR

Athol Fugard, John Kani and Winton Ntshona: The Island

“The Island is designed for an actor-centred theatre which is meant to confront the audience with the immediacy which we associate with story-telling in the African oral tradition.”

Substantiate with relevant illustrations from the play.

QUESTION FIVE

Wole Soyinka: Kongi's Harvest

“The opening section of the play, “Hemlock” sets the scene thematically for the main conflicts of the play and gives no false hope of a comfortable outcome.” Discuss the main conflicts in the play with textual illustrations.

QUESTION SIX

Zakes Mda: And the Girls in their Sunday Dresses

“Despite his apparent empathy for both female characters in the play, Mda’s descriptions clearly establish The Woman as the one who is to enjoy authorial approval throughout the play compared to The Lady.” Is this statement justified? Give reasons for your answer.