

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
MAIN EXAMINATION, MAY 2016

TITLE OF PAPER: TRADITIONAL/ORAL LITERATURE III

COURSE CODE: AL 416/ IDE-AL 416

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: 1. ANSWER **THREE (3)** QUESTIONS: QUESTION **ONE (1)** AND **TWO** OTHER QUESTIONS.

2. BEGIN EACH ANSWER ON A SEPARATE PAGE.

3. CANDIDATES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BRING ANY READING MATERIAL INTO THE EXAMINATION HALL.

4. IN THE ASSESSMENT OF THIS PAPER, THE MARKER WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE CORRECT USE OF ENGLISH, QUALITY OF EXPRESSION, AND PRESENTATION OF ANSWERS.

DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR GIVES YOU PERMISSION TO OPEN IT.

SECTION A (COMPULSORY)

You MUST answer question ONE in this section.

Question 1

Using the proverbs below, explain the Swazi society's definition of a wife.

(20 Marks)

- Umfati Akashi *"A wife does not get burned"*
- Insandzane lenhle ngumakhotfwa ngunina

"A beautiful orphan is licked by its mother"

- Kwandza kwaliwa kabaFLAS *"Increase is refused by FLAS"*
- Babotidla batibeke ematsambo *"They should eat them and keep the bones"*

(20 Marks)

SECTION B

Answer any TWO questions from this section.

Question 2

Critically discuss the imagery used in the riddles below. (Your discussion should show the relationship between the imagery and the answer to the riddle.)

(20 Marks)

- a) Ngikuphica ngenkhosi yami itsetsa itsetse ikhiphe umlilo, iphose ematje bese ikhala tinyembeti. *"I quiz you with my king who shouts shouts, spits fire, throws stones and then cries."*
- b) Ngikuphica ngendlu leyakhiwa ngumuntfu lonyayifuni, umtsengi wayo utsengela lomunye, kantsi lotawuhlala kuyo akayiboni. *"I quiz you with a house that is built by someone who does not want it, its buyer buys it for someone else, yet the person to live in it does not see it."*
- c) Ngikuphica ngelijaha lami lelibhukusha esitibeni lesibilako. *"I quiz you with my man who swims in a boiling pond."*
- d) Ngikuphica ngendvodza letfwala bantfwabayo lekutsi nakuchamuka emajaha badanse. *"I quiz you with a man who carries his children and when young man approach the children dance."*

Question 3

The unity and communal lifestyle of the Swazi society is largely fractured and complex. Discuss this statement using **four** siSwati proverbs of your choice.

(20 Marks)

Question 4

Praise poems archive valuable **historical information**. Discuss this statement using King Mswati III's praises quoted below.

(20 Marks)

TIBONGO TAMSWATI III

Mswati lomnyama kulabalutfuli
Wena lowagudla Lusutfu wewuka nalo,
Watelebhel'ubheke kaLozitha
Waya wayowuphumula eMponono
Kwaphuma LaMatsebula
Wakutsela etinyaweni ngemabele
Kwabe kuhluma kwemsa waBhuza.

LaMatsebula wabuka eNingizimu
Wabuka eMphumalanga naseNyakatfo
Watsi naba boMshweshwe ewebeSutfu
Naba boZwelithini wemaZulu
Nawe-ke msa waBhuza
Utawuba yinkhosi yetive,
Lasho lakunamatsela.

Wagijima Smangele
Dzadze waboMahhovu Gwebu
Abang'esbhedlela kaHynd,
Kuyekuloba libito lakho.

Longati wena akati lutfo,
Ingan'ingadla bewuyishaya
Kusuluke titsendze kubo ntsanga,
Kubo Bafana beMasundvwini.
Ubindz'utsin Mswati?
Uyalibona live labokhokho liyavungama,
Kuvungatela liqoqo eqoqweni,
Kuvungatela emalangeneni nemaHhalinyane,
Litawube lifile Ngwane

Nalemuke nemaHhalinyane

Nkhosi!

Bayethe!

Question 5

Discuss the distinct formal features of an African oral epic.

(20 Marks)