

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE  
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION  
JULY 2017

COURSE NAME: THEMATIC STUDIES IN THE AFRICAN NOVEL AND  
BIOGRAPHY/AUTOBIOGRAPHY

COURSE CODE: AL 414 / IDE AL 414

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS, 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

**Ama Ata Aidoo: Changes: A Love Story**

“Hado’t her friendship with Opokuya been, so far, the only constant thing in her life? ... And to maintain a friendship is a choice? Therefore not to maintain a friendship – indeed to kill a friend -- is a choice?”

Examine the context of the above quotation and discuss the theme of friendship in Aidoo’s novel.

## QUESTION TWO

**Buchi Emecheta: The Slave Girl**

How do women like Ma Palagada and the slave woman’s dead mistress become active agents of patriarchy, perpetuating female enslavement without using their powers to liberate themselves and the other women?

## SECTION - B

## SHORT STORY

## QUESTION THREE

**Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: “Transition to Glory”**

“He was perfect, my husband. He was perfect at lying, he was perfect at everything.”

Whose words are these? Discuss with textual illustrations why this statement is ironic?

**QUESTION FOUR**

**Veronique Tadjo: "A Sunny Afternoon"**

How does Tadjo juxtapose reality and fantasy in the story, through her female protagonist?

**SECTION – C**

**PROSE NON-FICTION: AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

**QUESTION FIVE**

**Buchi Emecheta: Head Above Water**

How does Emecheta portray the themes of sexual and cultural oppression in her book, Head Above Water?

**QUESTION SIX**

**Bessie Head: A Woman Alone**

Describe in detail Head's depiction of the psychological effects of racism and oppression in South Africa in A Woman Alone.