

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

TITLE OF PAPER: POSTCOLONIAL AFRICAN POETRY & DRAMA/CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN POETRY
AND DRAMA

COURSE CODE: ALL 202 /IDE AL 213 MAIN MAY EXAMINATION, 2017

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS

(1) ANSWER (THREE) 3 QUESTIONS IN ALL

(2) DO NOT REPEAT MATERIAL IN YOUR ANSWERS

(3) EACH QUESTION SHOULD BE COMMENCED ON A FRESH SHEET

(4) CLARITY OF EXPRESSION AND EFFECTIVE ORGANISATION OF ANSWER CONTENT WILL COUNT IN
THE AWARD OF POINTS FOR THIS PAPER

(5) EACH QUESTION IS WORTH 33 MARKS

(6) IN THE DRAMA SECTION, ANSWER AT LEAST ONE QUESTION FROM EACH OF THE TWO PLAYS

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR

SECTION A: POETRY – Answer at least **one** question from this section.

Question 1

Read the attached poem by Maganthrie Pillay titled 'Warrior Marks,' and comment on its themes and stylistic devices.

Question 2

'Poetry is not all seriousness. It can be humorous while addressing serious issues.' With the aid of poems you have studied this semester, show that indeed poetry does address serious issues in a humorous way.

SECTION B: DRAMA – Answer at least **one** question from this section.

The Imprisonment of Obatala by Ijimore, Obotunde

Question 3

Discuss the genesis, progress and conclusion of the conflict in *The Imprisonment of Obatala*. What is the significance of the fact that the story ends where it began?

Question 4

Discuss bawdy imagery and bodily fluids and explain if these are strengths or weaknesses of the play.

Question 5

Woyengi by Ijimore, Obotunde

'The play *Woyengi*, does lend itself to a feminist reading, but only so far.' What complicates the reading of *Woyengi* as a feminist play?

Question 6

How does Ijimore depict a rebel who nevertheless wins the sympathies of the audience? And does the audience's sympathising with the rebel make us critical of *Woyengi*?

END

MAGANTHRIE PILLAY (b. 1971)

WARRIOR MARKS

If only stretch marks
Were marks of honour
Warrior marks of love
If only we marveled
At the miracle of birth
In all its splendor
And all that remains
Glorious stretch marks
On stomach
Thighs and buttocks
If people ululated when they saw
A woman's body marked
With the labour of love
If they would form a circle around her
Dance their joy and appreciation
For what she has achieved
Conceived and they received
A new little person
To give love and be loved!

If only stretch marks
Were marks of honour
And not marks of shame
Wearers of which
Swath and conceal them
From all eyes
Even their own
Some never recover
From the quiet consuming loathing
Envy of smooth-skinned shapely forms
Hating their forever changed bodies
Used as a vessel
And little reward
But years of exhaustion
And some smiles
Sometimes.

The mirror tells no lies

The lover says

You are as beautiful as ever

While his wondering gaze

Hovers on woman not marked

But these warrior marks of love

Are for us, for you

For our little one

Following his eyes with hers

Knowing her bony shield

She must eventually shed

But li' search marks

Were marks of honour

Warrior marks of love

She would be bold

Bear them as proof of her love

On her gift of the self

It's people danced around her

And celebrated her gift to them

She would know

She was a warrior

Of unconditional love

She would replace the longing

With wondrous joy

She would stand proud

As a warrior of love