

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO PROSE FICTION AND PROSE NON-FICTION

COURSE CODE: AL 111 (**FOR IDE STUDENTS ONLY**) MAIN DECEMBER EXAMINATION, 2016

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS

(1) ANSWER 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 ORGANIZATION OF ANSWER CONTENT WILL COUNT IN THE AWARD OF POINTS FOR THIS PAPER

(5) ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS IN ALL, AT LEAST ONE QUESTION IN EACH OF THE THREE SECTIONS

EACH QUESTION CARRIES 33 MARKS

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

SECTION A- ANSWER ONE QUESTION FROM THIS SECTION

Question 1

'Inner ugliness is a self-inflicted curse. Its effects are particularly devastating in an environment where everyone is nursing their inner demons or engaging in some form of self-deception.' In the short stories we have read, which character is plagued by inner-ugliness and how does it mar the course of his/her life? Discuss. (33 MARKS)

Question 2

'True greatness lies not only in overcoming fellow men but in overcoming nature and the elemental forces.' Do you agree? Pick a story of your choice and use it to support your response to this question. (33 MARKS)

SECTION B ANSWER ONE QUESTION FROM THIS SECTION

Question 3

How do the three women: priestess of Chielo, Ekwefi, and Ezinma complicate Okonkwo's relationship with his religion and culture? (33 MARKS)

Question 4

'Igbo society in Things Fall Apart is undermined by its callous disregard of the plight of the vulnerable in its midst.' How far do you agree with this assertion? Support your views with evidence from the novel. (33 MARKS)

SECTION C ANSWER ONE QUESTION FROM THIS SECTION

Question 5

Read the following snippet from Nelson *Mandela's Conversations With Myself*

'I was being groomed for the position of chieftaincy . . . but then ran away, you know, from a forced marriage . . . That changed my whole career. But if I had stayed at home I would have been a respected chief today, you know? And I would have a big stomach, you know, and a lot of cattle and sheep.'

Comment on the image of traditional authority implicit in the above passage and suggest whether Nelson Mandela regrets losing it all. Rely on Mandela's depiction of his upbringing in *Conversations with Myself* to answer this question. (33 MARKS)

Question 6

What is the value of reprinted handwritten letters by Mandela himself and the chapter introductions in italics 'contain'/'frame' Mandela's story in *Conversations With Myself*? (33 MARKS)

(1 bonus point!)