

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
MAIN EXAMINATION (FIRST SEMESTER)
DECEMBER 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

“In her novel, Aidoo portrays hybrid characters who live in a modern world that is often complicated by traditional views and social structure that they do not really understand.”

With reference to the above statement, discuss Esi and the two male characters in her life, Oko and Ali.

QUESTION TWO

Buchi Emecheta: The Slave Girl

How does Emecheta portray the journeys that are closely associated to the markets, symbolize cultural exchanges and displacements?

SECTION – B
PROSE FICTION: SHORT STORY

QUESTION THREE

Nadine Gordimer: “Is there nowhere else where we could meet?”

Comment on the narrative technique that is used by Gordimer in her short story to bring out the consciousness of the female protagonist.

QUESTION FOUR

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: "Transition to Glory"

"She wanted to ask if he ever was consumed with the same thoughts as she was: thoughts about right and need."

Discuss how Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's story, "Transition to Glory" juxtaposes the social rights and the personal needs through the characters of Ozioma and Agha. Take your cue from the above quotation.

SECTION – C

PROSE NON-FICTION: AUTOBIOGRAPHY

QUESTION FIVE

Buchi Emecheta: Head Above Water

Discuss how Buchi and her aunt (Big Mother), Nwakwaluzo Ogbueyin successfully overcame their pre-determined social roles and appropriated the roles of men to build their own status, with textual illustrations.

QUESTION SIX

Bessie Head: A Woman Alone

How does life in Serowe help Head to understand South Africa and herself?