

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO MODERN AFRICAN LITERATURE

COURSE CODE: ALL 101 /IDE ALL 101 MAIN EXAMINATION

DECEMBER 2017

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) ANSWER (THREE) 3 QUESTIONS IN ALL, ONE FROM EACH SECTION
- (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) EACH QUESTION IS WORTH 33 MARKS

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

Section A: Prose Fiction – Novel & Short Story

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe, 'The Suit' by Can Themba, 'Deep River,' by Bessie Head

Question 1

Discuss the characterisation of Ekwefi and her daughter Ezinma in Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*. Analyse how their relationship with Okonkwo aids grasp of the depth of characterisation of the latter.

Question 2

Discuss the depiction of women protagonists in the two short stories we have studied this semester. Which story's protagonist do you find more plausible and likeable and why?

Section B: Poetry

Question 3

Discuss the use of satire in a poem of your choice. Make sure you highlight the issues/themes being portrayed.

Question 4

Poem included: Charles Marechera, 'Pledging My Soul'

Identify the elements that make the attached poem memorable to you and explain why the poem's impact rests on those memorable elements.

Section C: Prose Non-Fiction

Beauty of the Heart – Life and Times of Charlotte Manna Maxeke by Zubeida Jaffer

Question 5

Why would someone's narration of someone's life story be regarded 'art'? Identify the artistic elements of the excerpt below. The excerpt is from Charlotte Manna Maxeke's biography written by Zubeida Jaffer

Question 6

Discuss the concept of artistic license in the recreation of someone's life's story. Use evidence from the text we studied this semester.

PLEDGING MY SOUL

Charles Marechera (Zimbabwe)

- When I was a boy
I climbed onto your granite breasts
smooth and round
I trailed my body
5 from the small of your back
to your yielding neck
the cup of your breasts
was my pillow
the rivers of your tears
10 drowned me down in your depths
and the smooth plain of your flat belly
yielded to mine
I was yours
and you were mine.
- 15 Now a man
in exile from the warmth of your arms,
and the milk of your teeth
the breath of your secret whispers in my ears
shall I not stride back to you with haste
20 rout all my enemies and bind the wicked husbandmen
Shall I not kneel to kiss the grains of your sand
to rise naked before you — a bowl of incense?
and the smoke of my nakedness shall be
an offering to you
25 pledging my soul.