

**UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
MAIN EXAMINATION
DECEMBER 2018**

**COURSE NAME: ADVANCED STUDIES IN AFRICAN NOVEL AND BIOGRAPHY/
AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

COURSE CODE: IDE AL 313

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS, BY CHOOSING QUESTIONS FROM BOTH SECTIONS. 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

Chinua Achebe: No Longer at Ease

“To the naive converts like Obi and his father Isaac, the written word symbolises white power which also portends black spiritual decay and death.” Discuss the protagonist’s cultural estrangement in relation to the above statement.

QUESTION TWO

Mariama Ba: So Long a Letter

“The two major female characters in the novel make personal, significant choices when confronted with some inherent gender-based inequalities in their culture, especially the marriage institution.” Compare and contrast the choices made by Aissatou and Ramatoulaye in the institution of marriage.

QUESTION THREE

Chenjerai Hove: Bones *

“In the novel, Hove uses the metaphor of “bones” to mean the spiritual self but in the eyes of the oppressors, “bones” are limited to physical strength, which is temporary and diminishes with age and disappears with death.” Compare and contrast these different images with textual illustrations.

SECTION – B

PROSE NON FICTION: BIOGRAPHY / AUTOBIOGRAPHY

QUESTION FOUR

Discuss the following topics with relevant examples.

- a. Political Autobiography / Political Memoir
- b. Apartheid and Autobiography

QUESTION FIVE

Hilda Kuper: Sobhuza II: Ngwenyama and the king of Swaziland

What is an ethnographic autobiography/biography? Can you consider King Sobhuza II's biography as an Ethnographic biography? Give reasons for your answer.

QUESTION SIX

Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom

“To be the father of a nation is a great honour, but to be the father of a family is a greater joy. But it was a joy I had far too little of.”

What is the context in which Mandela voiced the above statement? Discuss Mandela's role as a father and explain how it clashed with his role as a leader of the nation.