

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

**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****Buchi Emecheta: The Slave Girl**

“After the death of Ojebeta’s mother, Ojebeta’s change is immediate: transformed from a much-loved child into a commodity item, the motherless Ojebeta is reborn as the slave girl of the story’s title.”

Discuss Ojebeta’s passage from girlhood to womanhood and the motif of a slave girl that pervades the entire novel.

**QUESTION TWO****Ama Ata Aidoo: Changes: A Love Story**

In Aidoo’s novel, one can discern a polarisation of female characters in to either the trope of the “suffering good wife” and that of the “cynical modern woman” which the critic, Florence Stratton terms “the convention of the paired women”.

Identify and discuss the characters in the novel who would fit into the “convention of the paired women”.

**SECTION – B**  
**PROSE FICTION: SHORT STORY**

**QUESTION THREE****Nadine Gordimer: “Is there Somewhere Else Where We can Meet?”**

How does Gordimer create tension and ambiguity in the story through the encounter between a young white woman and a ragged blackman?

**QUESTION FOUR****Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: “Transition to Glory”**

“Girls who grow up with non-existent paternal relationships (Absent fathers) end up in failed relationships and suffer from lack of self-worth and insecurity.”

Relate this statement to Oziomo, the protagonist in Adichie’s short story.

**SECTION – C****PROSE NON-FICTION: BIOGRAPHY / AUTOBIOGRAPHY****QUESTION FIVE****Buchi Emecheta: Head Above Water**

“My mother has paid your bride price. Your people asked and accepted more than five times the normal price and I think you should be pleased. Not many families are willing to pay that much on a woman.”

Identify the speaker and discuss the implications intended through this statement and analyse how the custom of bride price affects Emecheta’s life.

**QUESTION SIX****Bessie Head: A Woman Alone**

What are Head’s South African preoccupations and how does she include them as her thematic concerns in her works?