

UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION
JULY 2019

COURSE NAME: THEMATIC STUDIES IN AFRICAN POETRY AND DRAMA

COURSE CODE: AL 415 / IDE AL 415

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. ANSWER THREE (3) QUESTIONS. CHOOSE QUESTIONS FROM BOTH SECTIONS. EACH QUESTION CARRIES 20 MARKS.**
- 2. EACH QUESTION SHOULD BE COMMENCED 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 EXPRESSION 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

POETRY

QUESTION ONE

“I am the victim.
I am slaughtered
every night in the streets.
I am cornered by the fear
gnawing at my timid heart;
In my helplessness I languish.” (Mtshali’s “Nightfall in Soweto”)

“Huddled pavements, dark,
the lonely wail of a police-siren
moving stealthily across
grey alleys of anonymity
asking for food either
as plasma in hospital jars,.....” (Awoonor’s “Harlem on a Winter Night”)

“from the shanties creaking iron-sheets
violence like a bug-infested rag is tossed
and fear is imminent as sound in the wind-swung bell” (Brutus’s “Nightsong: City”)

Compare and contrast the portrayal of cities at night in O. M. Mtshali’s “Nightfall in Soweto”, Kofi Awoonor’s “Harlem on a Winter Night” and Dennis Brutus’ “Nightsong: City.”

Take your cue from the above extracts.

QUESTION TWO

Give a comparative perspective on Eric Mazani’s “My Grandmother is my Love”, Bonus Zimunya’s “Old Granny” and A. L. Henricks’s “An Old Jamaican Woman thinks about the Hereafter” in relation to their personas, subject matter and tone.

QUESTION THREE

How does Kofi Anyidoho use the metaphor of a 'long distance runner' to indict the white American civilisation in his poem, "Long Distance Runner"?

SECTION – B**DRAMA****QUESTION FOUR**

Wole Soyinka: Death and the King's Horseman

"I know it was this thought that killed me, sapped my powers and turned me into an infant in the hands of unnameable strangers. I made to utter my spells anew but my tongue merely rattled in my mouth. I fingered hidden charms and the contact was damp; there was no spark left to sever the life strings that should stretch from every finger-tip."

What is the significance of this quotation and how does the "thought that killed me" connect to Elesin's predicament in the play?

QUESTION FIVE

Athol Fugard: Exits and Entrances

"I have been left behind by time – relegated to the museum of Afrikaner cultural oddities.

You see, my acting style was 'too old fashioned', my manner 'too affected' – as one critic put it – for the new South African theatre."

Contrast Andre's concept of theatre with that of the playwright's concept of theatre. Show how one replaces the other.