

UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
MAIN EXAMINATION
MAY 2019

COURSE NAME: ADVANCED STUDIES IN AFRICAN POETRY AND DRAMA

COURSE CODE: IDE AL314

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. ANSWER ANY 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

Syl Cheney-Coker: “Freetown”

... there are those who when they come to plead
Say make us Black Englishmen decorated Afro-Saxons
Creole masters leading native races....

Explain the significance of the above lines and discuss how Cheney-Coker depicts a Sierra Leone of rich tradition violated by the Creole intrusion, in his poem “Freetown.”

QUESTION TWO

Antonio Jacinto: “Letter from a Contract Worker”

How does the poem evoke the feelings of romance, tenderness and admiration, even though the speaker cannot write and the addressee cannot read?

QUESTION THREE

Gabriel Okara: “Piano and Drums”

“And I lost in the morning mist
of an age at a riverside keep
wandering in the mystic rhythm
of jungle drums and the concerto.”

What is the significance of these lines and how do they relate to the themes of the poem?

SECTION – B
DRAMA

QUESTION FOUR

Athol Fugard, John Kani and Winston Ntshona: The Island

“The staging of Sophocles’ Antigone as myth and drama represents John’s attempt to assert the meaning of resistance, involving a transfiguration of the Sisyphean absurd into the heroic myth of martyrdom in the struggle to destroy tyranny.” Substantiate this statement with reference to the play.

QUESTION FIVE

Ama Ata Aidoo: Anowa

“... there must be something unwholesome about making slaves of other men, something that is against the natural state of man and the purity of his worship of the gods. Those who have observed have remarked that every house is ruined where they take in slaves.”

Discuss the theme of slavery in Aidoo’s Anowa. Take your cue from the above quotation.

QUESTION SIX

Zakes Mda: And the Girls in their Sunday Dresses

“Despite his apparent empathy for both female characters in the play, Mda’s descriptions clearly establish The Woman as the one who is to enjoy authorial approval throughout the play compared to The Lady.” Is this statement justified? Give reasons for your answer.