

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

COURSE NAME: INTRODUCTION TO MODERN AFRICAN LITERATURE

COURSE CODE: ALL101

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 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
PROSE FICTION

QUESTION ONE

Chinua Achebe: Things Fall Apart

“Okonkwo’s self-assertion runs contrary to the bonds that link the individual and the clan, and his actions become a menace to his society and to the ethics of the tribal code.” Discuss with textual illustrations.

QUESTION TWO

Grace Ogot: “The Rain Came”

Describe any one internal conflict in the short story and explain whether this conflict is resolved in the end.

SECTION – B
POETRY

QUESTION THREE

Okot p’Bitek”: Song of Lawino

“Lawino’s task is to convince us that beauty is defined by the form of being, and that the being takes its colour out of the substance of the particular individual’s will.” Discuss Lawino’s concept of beauty as portrayed in the dramatic situation titled, “The Graceful Giraffe Cannot Become a Monkey.”

QUESTION FOUR

Read the poem given below and discuss how the poet uses similes to express the theme.

“As camels who have become thirsty”

(Somali traditional)

As camels who have become thirsty after they have been grazing in
 the Haud for a long time
 And who are stopped in front of the well, while a youth sings to them
 And while the word “hoobay” is chanted and voices interchanged,
 So I grow wild with impatience when you say “Hodan”.
 What seems to you so simple, to me brings grief and woe.
 Until people tread earth into her grave, I shall not give up.
 Rapt in a deceitful trance I thought I was sleeping with her
 But it was only that a jinn counterfeited the image of her sister.
 I aimed to snatch her by her hand – the place beside me was empty.
 When I discovered that I was striving but that no one was there
 I woke up abruptly, having tossed from side to side.
 I rumped my bed, like a prowling lion
 I attacked and pounded the bedclothes as if it were they who had
 caused my deprivation.
 I lowered my face, like a hero against whom men have combined.
 I was humbled like a boy from whom a herd of camels, which
 Belonged to the clan, were looted.
 I felt disgraced like a woman to whom the words “I divorce you” had
 been spoken.
 It is degrading to yearn for what you cannot have.
 Alas, alas, what a disaster has come upon me!

SECTION – C

DRAMA

QUESTION FIVE

Wole Soyinka: The Trials of Brother Jero

How does Soyinka use irony, exaggeration and invective as tools of satire to hammer home his bitter criticism of religious roguery that has become rampant in post-colonial Africa?

QUESTION SIX

Ama Ata Aidoo: The Dilemma of a Ghost

I saw a wretched ghost
Going up and down
Singing to himself
'Shall I go
To Cape coast,
Or to Elmina
I don't know,
I can't tell.'

Discuss the significance of this dream song and show how it captures the conflict portrayed in the play.