

UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
MAIN EXAMINATION
AUGUST 2020

COURSE NAME: AFRICAN WOMEN WRITERS

COURSE CODE: ALL402

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS. CHOOSE 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 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

Ama Ata Aidoo: Changes: A Love Story

“Through Esi, Aidoo rejects situations and relationships in both literature and society, that entrap women and define them within restricted spaces that limit the possibilities for a diversity of female identities.”

Substantiate this statement with relevant textual illustrations from the novel.

QUESTION TWO

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: The Purple Hibiscus

“The central conflict in Adichie’s novel revolves around the “failed transplantation” of Eugene, a figure who, for the adult reader, embodies repressive patriarchy, imported Western religion, or colonial mimicry”. Discuss.

QUESTION THREE

Nawal el Saadawi: Woman at Point Zero

“I was like a woman walking through an enchanted world to which she does not belong. She is free to do what she wants, and free not to do it. She experiences the rare pleasure of having no ties with anyone, of having broken with everything ... of enjoying freedom from any subjection to a man, to marriage, or to love”

With reference to the above quotation, discuss how Firdaus connects estrangement and freedom.

SECTION – B
PROSE NON-FICTION

QUESTION FOUR

Buchi Emecheta: Head Above Water

“ ... if one belongs to a group, one should try and abide by its laws. If one could not abide by the group’s law, then one was an outsider, a radical, someone different who had find a way of living and being happy outside the group. Akunna was too young to do all that. She had to die.”

Why should Akunna die and how is she related to Emecheta’s own life? In an essay, explore the connection between Emecheta and Akunna, taking your cue from the above quotation.

QUESTION FIVE

Lauretta Ngcobo: “African Motherhood – Myth and Reality”

“Central to many African beliefs is that there are three states of human existence – the land of the unborn, the land of the living and the land of the ancestors. Belief has it that the children of any given family are always there waiting for the mothers to come and rescue them from oblivion and bring them to life in the land of the living.”

Discuss how marriage and motherhood are intertwined in African culture.