

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

**COURSE NAME: ADVANCED STUDIES IN AFRICAN NOVEL AND BIOGRAPHY/  
AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

**COURSE CODE: IDE AL313**

**TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS, BY CHOOSING 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**

**Chinua Achebe: No Longer at Ease**

“You may say that I am not broad-minded, but I don’t think we have reached the stage where we can ignore all our customs. You may talk about education and so on, but I am not going to marry an *osu*.”

How does Christopher’s (Obi’s friend) speech bring out the struggle between traditional and modern values in the novel?

**QUESTION TWO**

**Mariama Ba: So Long a Letter**

Discuss how the male characters in the novel, So Long a Letter take advantage of Islam’s tolerance of plural marriages to justify their actions.

**QUESTION THREE**

**Chimamanda Ngozie Adichie: The Thing Around Your Neck**

“You thought that everybody in America had a car and a gun; your uncles and aunts and cousins thought so too.”

Explain how reality can never live up to the fantasies and dreams of immigrants with special reference to the short story, “The Thing Around your Neck.”

**SECTION – B**

**PROSE NON FICTION**

**QUESTION FOUR**

Discuss the following topics with relevant examples.

- a. Political Autobiography / Political Memoir
- b. Apartheid and Autobiography

**QUESTION FIVE**

**Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom**

“To be the father of a nation is a great honour, but to be the father of a family is a greater joy. But it was a joy I had far too little of.”

What is the context in which Mandela voiced the above statement? Discuss Mandela’s role as a father and explain how it clashed with his role as a leader of the nation.