

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

**TITLE OF PAPER** : **THEMATIC STUDIES IN THE AFRICAN NOVEL  
AND AUTO/BIOGRAPHY**

**COURSE CODE** : **IDE AL414**

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

**INSTRUCTIONS**

ANSWER **THREE** QUESTIONS IN ALL, CHOOSING FROM BOTH SECTIONS

EACH QUESTION CARRIES **20** MARKS

CANDIDATES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BRING ANY READING MATERIAL INTO  
THE EXAMINATION HALL

DO NOT REPEAT MATERIAL IN YOUR ANSWERS

COMMENCE EACH ANSWER ON A FRESH PAGE

CLARITY OF EXPRESSION AND ORGNAISATION OF CONTENT WILL COUNT IN  
THE ASSESSMENT OF THIS PAPER

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION TO DO SO HAS BEEN  
GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR

## **SECTION A: THE AFRICAN NOVEL**

**Charles Mungoshi – *Waiting for the Rain* (1975)**

Question 1

In what ways can the drought in *Waiting for the Rain* be considered as physical, cultural and spiritual?

**Chinua Achebe – *A Man of the People* (1966)**

Question 2

'*A Man of the People* has been described as a scathing denunciation of the political opportunism of those in power and the cynicism of the masses.' Discuss the novel in the context of this statement.

## **SECTION B: AFRICAN BIOGRAPHY/AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

**General Question**

Question 5

Drawing examples from texts studied on this course, discuss the view that the difference between auto/biography and prose fiction is somehow, blurred.

**Bessie Head - *A Woman Alone* (1990)**

Question 3

'African scholars need to do serious work detailing and describing indigenous African cultures from inside out, not from outside in' (Oyewumi, 1987). In light of this, discuss how successful Bessie Head has been in describing the perception and position of women in the Serowe village of Botswana?

Question 4

**Buchi Emecheta – *Head Above Water* (1994)**

Discuss the various ways in which female writers view marriage and lack of an education as limiting and dis-empowering to the African woman. Use the above text for illustration.

**END OF PAPER**