

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND****SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION 2005**

**TITLE OF PAPER:**       **MODERN ENGLISH LITERATURE / ADVANCED  
STUDIES IN AFRICAN LITERATURE**

**COURSE CODE:**       **ENG 404 / IDE-E4P3**

**TIME ALLOWED:**       **TWO HOURS FOR ENG 404  
THREE HOURS FOR IDE-E4P3**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Answer three questions, one from each section.
2. Do not repeat material or write about the same text more than once.
3. Correct use of English and literary conventions will be rewarded and the reverse will be penalised.

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

## SECTION A

### God's Bits of Wood – Ousmane

1. 'According to Marxist thinking, capitalism is an economic system that has created a dialectical or oppositional relationship between capitalists and the workers.' Discuss this statement in relation to the events and circumstances of the novel. [20]

### Kehinde – Emecheta

2. 'Among other things, Emecheta sees the socialisation of male children as a root cause of male domination in African communities'. Support or refute this statement. [20]

### Yoranivvoto – Mnthali

3. Comment on the effect of the use of the epistolary or letter writing technique in the novel. [20]

### The Red Head Khumalo – Bregin

4. 'The political and social transformation has ushered in a new set of social problems in the new South Africa.' Discuss this statement in relation to this novel. [20]

## SECTION B

### Blood Knot – Fugard

5. In what way does Ethel's coming into the lives of the two brothers become a source of decline as well as a means of strengthening their relationship? [20]

### Song of a Goat – Clark

6. Comment on the rich African culture and tradition demonstrated in this play, and discuss how this enhances the theme (s). [20]

## SECTION C

### Crossings – Heywood

7. 'To a certain extent, African written poetry has retained some of the features of its oral traditions.' Use the attached poem to demonstrate the validity of this statement.

56 BREATH

*Birago Diop (Senegal)*

Listen more to things  
Than to words that are said.  
The water's voice sings  
And the flame cries  
5 And the wind that brings  
The woods to sighs  
Is the breathing of the dead.

Those who are dead have never gone away.  
They are in the shadows darkening around,  
10 They are in the shadows fading into day,  
The dead are not under the ground.  
They are in the trees that quiver,  
They are in the woods that weep,  
They are in the waters of the rivers,  
15 They are in the waters that sleep.  
They are in the crowds, they are in the homestead.  
The dead are never dead.

Listen more to things  
Than to words that are said.  
20 The water's voice sings  
And the flame cries  
And the wind that brings  
The woods to sighs  
Is the breathing of the dead  
25 Who have not gone away  
Who are not under the ground  
Who are never dead.

Those who are dead have never gone away.  
They are at the breast of the wife.  
30 They are in the child's cry of dismay  
And the fire brand bursting into life.  
The dead are not under the ground.  
They are in the fire that burns low  
They are in the grass with tears to shed,  
35 In the rock where whining winds blow  
They are in the forest, they are in the homestead.  
The dead are never dead.

Listen more to things  
Than to words that are said.  
40 The water's voice sings  
And the flame cries  
And the wind that brings  
The woods to sighs  
Is the breathing of the dead.  
45 And repeats each day  
The Covenant where it is said  
That our fate is bound to the law,

And the fate of the dead who are not dead  
To the spirits of breath who are stronger than they.  
50 We are bound to Life by this harsh law  
And by this Covenant we are bound  
To the deeds of the breathings that die  
Along the bed and the banks of the river,  
To the deeds of the breaths that quiver  
55 In the rock that whines and the grasses that cry  
To the deeds of the breathings that lie  
In the shadow that lightens and grows deep  
In the tree that shudders, in the woods that weep,  
In the waters that flow and the waters that sleep,  
60 To the spirits of breath who are stronger than they  
That have taken the breath of the deathless dead  
Of the dead who have never gone away  
Of the dead who are not now under the ground.

Listen more to things  
65 Than to words that are said.  
The water's voice sings  
And the flame cries  
And the wind that brings  
The woods to sighs  
70 Is the breathing of the dead.