

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION 2007

COURSE TITLE: ADVANCED STUDIES IN AFRICAN LITERATURE

COURSE CODE: ENG 404-IDE-ENG404/E4P3

TIME ALLOWED: TWO HOURS (ENG 404/IDE-ENG404)
THREE HOURS (E4P3)

INSTRUCTION: 1. Answer TWO questions, one from each section. Each question carries equal marks.

Answer THREE questions (IDE-E4P3)

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. "Negritude is a literary movement that seeks to negate the French colonial policy of assimilation." Discuss the extent to which Ousmane's novel reflects this. (30)

The Mending Season - Molohe

2. Magona asserts that 'Molohe weaves the dreams and aspirations of a young girl with the hopes of a nation about to give birth to itself.' Discuss this statement in relation to the issues raised in the texts. (30)

Or

Kehinde - Emecheta

3. "Until recently African female writers have been criticised for creating female characters that are ambivalent and confused and who vacillate between fighting male domination on one hand, and condoning it on the other." Using the way African female writers position themselves in the feminist debate, discuss this view in relation to the novel (30)

Yoranivoyoto – Mnthali

4. "In this novel Mnthali has made use of individual stories and testimonies." What effect does this have on the postcolonial situation portrayed in the novel? (30)

The Red Haired Khumalo – Bregin

5. "Chester's and Beth's love affair symbolises the struggle that the new South Africa is yet to experience before true liberation is attained.' Discuss this statement in relation to the novel (30)

SECTION B

Blood Knot – Fugard

6. William Wertheim asserts that "behind the apartheid barriers there were people who were not different from one another, people whose similar stories of family relations and individual aspirations connect them in ways that the racial separation of apartheid rule had not allowed them to realise." To what extent can this be said of the relation between the two brothers in this play? (30)

Song of a Goat – Clark

7. “African dramatists are products of cultures that are rich in traditional performances. They have also been influenced by dramatists of the western tradition.” Discuss this statement with special reference to this play. (30)

Crossings – Heywood

Read the attached poem and answer the questions that follow.

‘Where are those songs’ - Mugo

- (a) What aspects of Gikuyu culture and tradition are reflected in this poem? (12)
 - (b) The persona uses a number of possessive pronouns in the poem: what effect does this have on what is being said? (8)
 - (c) “Song and dance is an integral part of African cultural life.” How is this reflected in the poem? (10)
8. Kinship or blood relations are very important among African people. How has this been reflected in some of the poems you have studied in this course? (30)