

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION 2007/8

MAIN

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

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

INSTRUCTION: 1. ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS (ENG 404/ENG 404-IDE)
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 – The Novel

So Long a Letter – Ba

1. “By the act of writing a letter to her friend Aissatou, Ramatoulaye does not only tell her story but also that of other women whose life experiences are similar to hers.” Discuss this view in relation to the novella. (30)

The Mending Season – Molope

2. Discuss how Tsidi’s experiences after she moves to a white school may be viewed as a metaphor for the struggles that South Africans have to face before they can truly enjoy the fruits of the socio-political and economic transformation. (30)

Yoranivyoto – Mnthali

3. “Mnthali is better known as a poet and a literary scholar than a novelist”. How does his writing betray the poet in him Yoranivyoto? (30)

The Red Head Khumalo – Bregin

4. “Through her portrayal of events and characters Bregin seems to suggest that changing apartheid laws is just the first step to South Africa’s attainment of true democracy”. Discuss. (30)

SECTION B – Drama and Poetry

Blood Knot – Fugard

5. “In his introduction Dennis Walder asserts that Blood Knot explores the South African obsession with race, and the use of it to define relations of power and dependence.” Discuss this view with special references to the play. (30)

Song of a Goat – Clark

6. “In their writing, contemporary African dramatists draw from oral narratives as well as cultural beliefs and practices such as rites and rituals, the gods and the ancestors.” How is this manifested in Song of a Goat? (30)

* 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
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,
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
Than to words that are said.

The water's voice sings
And the flame cries
And the wind that brings
The woods to sighs
Is the breathing of the dead.

7. Analyse the poem that is attached in terms of:

- (a) The general mood of the poem (6)
- (b) The effect of the use of the refrain (6)
- (c) The effect of the use of paradoxical statements (6)
- (d) The belief system(s) reflected (12)

8. Discuss how the imagery used in some of the poetry you have studied in this course reflects the local fauna and flora. (30)