

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FINAL EXAMINATION 2009

COURSE TITLE: A STUDY OF DRAMA

COURSE CODE: ENG 305/IDE-ENG 305

TIME ALLOWED: TWO HOURS

- INSTRUCTIONS:
1. Answer TWO questions, one from each section.
 2. Your answers should be one and half to three pages long.
 3. Do not repeat material or write about the same text more than once.
 4. 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

1. Even though Elizabethan dramatists still found inspiration in the Classical writers, their writing displays features that are peculiar to it. Discuss this statement in relation to Shakespeare's theatre. [30]
2. Aristotle argues that at the end of watching a tragedy the audience experiences catharsis or the purging of emotions. How does a writer of tragedy achieve this? [30]
3. Drama is both literature and theatre. Explain. [30]

SECTION B

The Lion and the Jewel – Soyinka

4. In this play Soyinka does not exonerate one culture over the other but exposes the weaknesses of both. How does he achieve this? [30]

The Gods Are Not To Blame - Rotimi

5. Rotimi has been influenced by Greek Classical writers but at the same time his writing is informed by African cultural beliefs and practices. Discuss. [30]

Either:

The Coat – Fugard

6. This theatre experiment opens a lot of possibilities that can be explored given the subject of the play. What are some of the problems the five characters/actor encounter as they try to pursue these possibilities? [30]

Or:

Nongogo – Fugard

7. Among other things Fugard seems to suggest that the dehumanising effect of the city environment has compelled some of the characters to engage in self destructive behaviour, crime or complete loss of their humanity. Discuss this statement. [30]

Othello - Shakespeare

8. Shakespeare uses black or darkness not so much to designate race or to imply racism but as a means to characterise evil. Discuss. [30]

Death of a Salesman - Miller

9. Comment on the view that the absurdity of Willy's condition is the blind pursuance of a dream to the point of committing suicide so that one of his sons can continue chasing it. [30]