

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FINAL EXAMINATION 2009

COURSE TITLE: ADVANCED STUDIES IN AFRICAN LITERATURE

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

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

- INSTRUCTION:
1. ENG 404/IDE-ENG 404 ANSWER **TWO** QUESTIONS  
IDE-E4P3 ANSWER **THREE** QUESTIONS, TWO FROM  
SECTION A AND ONE FROM SECTION B.
  2. YOUR ANSWERS SHOULD BE ONE AND HALF TO  
THREE PAGES LONG.
  3. DO NOT REPEAT MATERIAL OR WRITE ABOUT THE  
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 – The Novel

### So Long a Letter – Ba

1. “Ba writes about the plight of women in a male dominated society but her writing also touches on issues that affect the male African elite”. Discuss this view. [30]

### The Mending Season – Molohe

2. “Mda argues that now that apartheid has been abolished Black South Africans are beginning to tackle problems that affect their communities.” Discuss this view in relation to the novel. [30]

### Yoranivoyoto – Mnthali

3. Comment on the effect of the use of varied narrative techniques in the novel. [30]

### The Red Head Khumalo – Bregin

4. “Through character interaction Bregin portrays the fears and anxieties that are experienced by the different racial groups at the prospect of a non racial and democratic society. Discuss this statement. [30]

## SECTION B – Drama and Poetry

### Blood Knot – Fugard

5. Although she is offstage the mother of the Morris and Zach features in significant moments in the dramatisation. What effect does this have on the issues of racial segregation, identity and self perception of the two brothers? (30)

### Song of a Goat – Clark

6. Like in Greek Classical tragedy Clark in this play uses fate or a curse as the basis for tragedy. To what extent does he adhere to the notions of Greek Classical tragedy in this play? (30)

Crossings – Heywood.

‘The Dry Season’ by Kwesi Brew.

7. Read this poem and answer the questions that follow.

The year is withering; the wind  
Blows down the leaves;  
Men stand under eaves  
And overhear the secrets  
5 Of the cold dry wind,  
Of the half-bare trees.

The grasses are tall and tinted,  
Straw-gold hues of dryness,

And the contradicting awryness,  
10 Of the dusty roads a-scatter  
With pools of colourful leaves,  
With ghosts of the dreaming year.

And soon, soon the fires,  
The fires will begin to burn,  
15 The hawk will flutter and turn  
On its wings and swoop for the mouse,  
The dogs will run for the hare,  
The hare for its little life.

(a) Comment on the ecological relations reflected in the poem. (10)

(b) What effect does the imagery used have on the subject of the poem? (10)

(c) What is the general mood of the poem? (10)

8. What aspect of African cultural life seems to recur in some of the poems you have studied in this course? (30)