

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

EXAMINATION, 2009/2010

MAIN EXAMINATION

TITLE OF PAPER: CRITICAL THEORY

COURSE CODE: ENG 304 / IDE-ENG 304

TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer any two questions. Each question carries 30 marks. The total marks for the examination is 60%.
2. Do not repeat material or write about the same text at length more than once.
3. Candidates are not allowed to bring any reading material into the examination room.
4. Correct use of English and literary conventions will be rewarded and the contrary will be penalized.

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

QUESTION 1

What are the basic arguments found in Barbara Smith's essay, "Towards a Black Feminist Criticism" and how are the same arguments amplified in Alice Walker's "In Search of our mothers' Gardens"? [30]

QUESTION 2

Marxism employed Deconstruction to try to destroy Capitalism. Show how an African writer reflects this trend in one or two texts of your choice. [30]

QUESTION 3

a) Briefly, but critically, discuss any **three** (3) of the following concepts of Existentialism:

- Existence
- Existence precedes consciousness
- Dread
- Bad faith
- The absurd

b) Explain how each of the three is related to the philosophy of existentialism.

[30]

QUESTION 4

In which major orientation of literary study would you place Marxist literary theory? Justify your answer with specific reference to any text you have read.

[30]

QUESTION 5

While Robert Bolt's A Man for All Seasons is an expression of Christianized existentialism, Beckett's Waiting for Godot is an expression of secular existentialism. Demonstrate your understanding of the concept of existentialism by qualifying this assertion.

[30]