

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION 2010

COURSE TITLE: ADVANCED STUDIES IN AFRICAN LITERATURE

COURSE CODE: ENG 404

TIME ALLOWED: TWO HOURS

- INSTRUCTIONS
1. Answer two questions, one from each section.
 2. Your answer should not exceed three pages.
 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: Novel and Drama

So Long a Letter Ba

1. How does Ba use character presentation to demonstrate her feminist and womanist perspectives in this novella? [30]

The Red Haired Khumalo Bregin

2. In what way may the Forsters' house be viewed as a microcosm for the new South Africa? [30]

The Bird of Heaven Dunseith

3. Among other things, the Sangoma or ancestor possessed individual charms good Will from the ancestors for the survival of the community. How is this demonstrated in this text? [30]

Song of a Goat Clark

4. How are folk beliefs and customs reflected in this play? [30]

Section B: Poetry

5. Using some of the poems you have studied in this course, discuss how the panegyric or art of praising has been used. [30]

6. Comment on the way the African landscape is presented in the following poem [30]

52 PLEDGING MY SOUL

Charles Marechera (Zimbabwe)

When I was a boy
I climbed onto your granite breasts
smooth and round
I trailed my body
5 from the small of your back
to your yielding neck
the cup of your breasts
was my pillow
the rivers of your tears
10 drowned me down in your depths
and the smooth plain of your flat belly
yielded to mine
I was yours
and you were mine.

- 15 Now a man
in exile from the warmth of your arms
and the milk of your teeth
the breath of your secret whispers in my ears
shall I not stride back to you with haste
- 20 rout all my enemies and bind the wicked husbandmen
Shall I not kneel to kiss the grains of your sand
to rise naked before you – a bowl of incense?
and the smoke of my nakedness shall be
an offering to you
- 25 pledging my soul.

LINE 20. *husbandmen*: farmers. But the meaning of usurpers, adulterers, is also there.

- 7 Discuss how the ancestral world is presented in some of the poems you have studied. [30]