

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION

JULY 2010

COURSE TITLE: ADVANCED STUDIES IN AFRICAN LITERATURE

COURSE CODE: IDE- ENG 404

TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. ANSWER **TWO (2)** QUESTIONS; ONE FROM EACH QUESTION.
2. EACH ANSWER SHOULD NOT EXCEED THREE (3) PAGES.
3. AVOID REPETITION OF MATERIAL ALREADY USED TO ANSWER ANOTHER QUESTION.
4. CORRECT USE OF ENGLISH AND LITERARY CONVENTIONS WILL BE CREDITED, AND THE REVERSE SHALL BE PENALISED.

**DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE
INVIGILATOR.**

SECTION A

Question 1 So Long a Letter Mariama Ba

“I warn you already, I have not given up wanting to fashion my life. Despite everything – disappointments and humiliation – hope still lives with me. It is from the dirty and nauseating humus that the green plant sprouts into life, and I can feel new buds springing up in me.”

- a) Identify the speaker and person spoken to. (4)
- b) Using the quote as a point of departure, discuss the issues and the theoretical framework Mariama Ba raises and uses in the novel, respectively. (20)
- c) How far do you agree with the issues raised? (6)

[30 Marks]

Question 2 The Mending Season Kagiso Molepe

“The incident in the netball court is told sometimes to new students like it was an urban based legend, the story that happened in the distant past. No one attaches names to it. It is only about ‘these two girls, one Black and one White’. Those of us who were there cringe as we hear the many different versions of it circulating in the playground.”

- a) Identify the characters involved in this incident. (5)
- b) Discuss and analyze the significance of this incident, explaining how it is received and interpreted by the affected parties such as the learners, the teachers, the principal and the parents. (20)
- c) In your view, which party presents a balanced view? Discuss briefly. (5)

[30 Marks]

Question 3 The Blood Knot Athol Fugard

The Blood Knot explores issues of race, identity, power relations and dependence. Discuss. **[30 Marks]**

20

I love my father
I hate him
I adore my father
I despise him

25

I'm scared
Of everything
Of love
Of rejection
And of life

30

I am not a heart breaker
I love God
I love women
I love men
And I love you
But my scars run too deep

Question 5

Choose one poem from your prescribed list and analyze the situation it presents, and also respond to its form.

[30 Marks]