

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION 2011

COURSE TITLE: ADVANCED STUDIES IN AFRICAN LITERATURE

COURSE CODE: ENG 404/IDE-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

So Long a Letter Ba

1. Female solidarity is one of the features of both feminism and womanism. How is this reflected in the novella? [30]

The Red Haired Khumalo- Bregin

2. "It's an adjustment for all of us, this new living arrangement ... a little tolerance from all of us will do a lot to smooth the way." Using this statement as a starting point, discuss the major concerns of the novel. [30]

The Bird of Heaven Dunseith

3. Discuss how, through Mandla, the apprentice Sangoma, Dunseith has been able to explore the mysteries of the ancestral world and Swazi magic. [30]

the mending season - Malope

4. In what way can the transformation that was occurring at the Masemola household be viewed as the miniature form of the one that South Africa was undergoing at that time? [30]

Section B: Drama and poetry

Song of a Goat - Clark

5. Comment on how language has been used to discuss issues of sexuality and intimacy in this play. [30]

"Abiku" by J.P. Clark

6. Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow.

Coming and going these several seasons,
Do stay out to the baobab tree,
Follow where you please your kindred spirits
If in doors is not enough for you.
5 True, it leaks through the thatch
When floods brim the banks,
And the bats and owls
Often tear it at night through the eaves,
And at the harmattan, the bamboo walls

Are ready tinder for the fire
That dries the fresh fish up on the rack.
Still, it's been the healthy stock
To several fingers, to many more will be
Who reach the sun.
No longer then bestride the threshold
But step in and stay
For good. We know the knife scars
Serrating down your back and front and front
Like beak of the sword-fish,
And both your ears, notched
As a bondsman to this house,
Are all relics of your first comings.
Then step in, step in and stay
For her body is tired,
Tired, her milk going sour
Where many more mouths gladden the heart.

- (i) Briefly (in not more than a page) identify and explain the situation presented in this poem. (15)
- (ii) Analyse the poem in terms of the belief system (s) reflected. (9)
- (iii) Describe the cultural behaviour and practices of the community presented in this poem. (6)

7. The originality of metaphors and imagery seems to defy the fact that African poetry in some cases has been either translated to or written in European languages. Comment on this view. [30]