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UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FINAL EXAMINATION, MAY 2012

TITLE OF PAPER: ADVANCED STUDIES IN AFRICAN LITERATURE

COURSE CODE: IDE-ENG 404

TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer two questions in all; one question from Section A and another one from Section B.
2. Each question carries 30 marks.
3. Do not repeat material or write about the same text at length more than once.
4. Candidates are not allowed to bring any reading material into the examination room.
5. Correct use of English and literary conventions will be rewarded and the contrary will be penalised.

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

SECTION A

Question 1

The Mending Season

By K.L. Molohe

“The country was mending many years of broken fences. And in our own way, so was my family.” Tshidi said (Molohe, 10). Illustrate this view with clear evidence from the text. [30]

Question 2

The Red-Haired Khumalo

By E. Bregin

“Old habits die hard.” Demonstrate how through character portrayal, Bregin demonstrates this saying in The Red-Haired Khumalo.

SECTION B

Question 3

Song of a Goat

By J.P. Clark

Culture, traditions and customs are the mainstays of African drama. Support this view with clear examples from J.P. Clark’s Song of a Goat.

Question 4

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Crossings

By A.M. Heywood

Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow:

I WILL PRONOUNCE YOUR NAME

By Leopold Sedar Senghor

I will pronounce your name, Naett, I will declaim you, Naett!

Naett, your name is mild like cinnamon, it is the fragrance in which the lemon grove sleeps

Naett, your name is the sugared clarity of blooming coffee trees

And it resembles the savannah, that blossoms forth under the masculine ardour of the midday sun

5 Name of dew, fresher than shadows of tamarind,

Fresher even than the short dusk, when the heat of the day is silenced,

Naett, that is the dry tornado, the hard clap of lightning

Naett, coin of gold, shining coal, you my night, my sun!...

I am you hero, and now I have become your sorcerer, in order to pronounce your names.

10 Princess of Elissa, banished from Futa on the fateful day.

Questions

a) Describe the form of the poem.

[10]

b) Describe the poem as a negritude poem.

[10]

c) Describe the African tradition portrayed by the persona in the poem.

[10]