

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION, JULY 2013

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: NOVELS

Question 1

“Molope in The Mending Season uses the Convent school incident to demonstrate that deep seated prejudice among blacks and whites continue to keep the races apart despite attainment of independence in South Africa.” Discuss the character portrayal of Beth, Mrs. Allison, KB and Veronica to reveal the validity of this statement.

Question 2

“Through her portrayal of events and characters, Bregin in The Red-Haired Khumalo seems to suggest that changing apartheid laws is just the first step to South Africa’s attainment of true democracy”. Discuss.

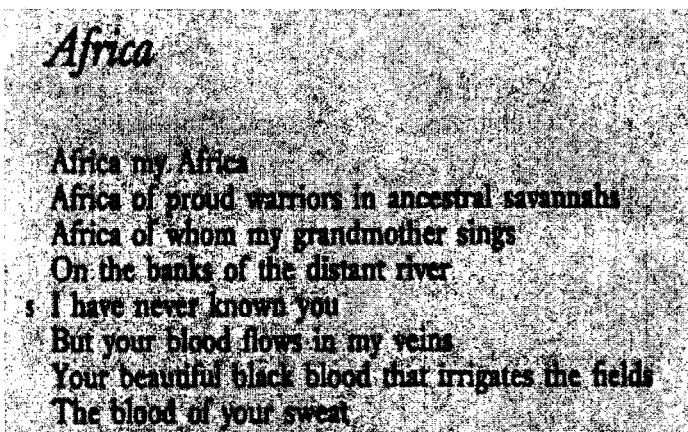
SECTION B: DRAMA AND POETRY

Question 3

“African dramatists are products of cultures that are rich in traditional performances. However, they have also been influenced by dramatists of the western tradition.” Discuss this statement with specific reference to Song of a Goat.

Question 4

Read the poem and answer the questions that follow.



The sweat of your work
10 The work of your slavery
The slavery of your children
Africa tell me Africa
Is this your back that is bent
This back that breaks under the weight of humiliation
15 This back trembling with red scars
And saying yes to the whip under the midday sun
But a grave voice answer me
Impetuous child that tree young and strong
That tree over there
20 Splendidly alone amidst white and faded flowers
That is your Africa springing up anew
Springing up patiently obstinately
Whose fruits bit by bit acquire
The bitter taste of liberty.

- i) Diop presents three historical aspects of Africa: Briefly discuss these historical sections. [10]
- ii) Delineate the themes of Negritude touched upon in this poem. [10]
- iii) Comment on the imagery of suffering in this poem. [5]
- iv) What significance is associated with the name Africa? [5]