

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION

COURSE TITLE: ADVANCED STUDIES IN AFRICAN LITERATURE

COURSE CODE: ENG 404

TIME ALLOWED: TWO HOURS

- INSTRUCTION:
1. Answer TWO questions; one from each section.
 2. Each carries 30 marks.
 3. Do not repeat material or write about the same text more than once.
 3. Correct use of English and literary conventions will be rewarded and the reverse will be penalised.

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

SECTION A: NOVELSSo Long a Letter – Ba

Question 1

Even though a Francophone writer Ba in this novella does not romanticise culture. Examine this statement. [30]

The Red Haired Khumalo – Bregin

Question 2

Among other things Bregin seems to suggest that South Africans need to come to terms with the past in order to focus on the creation of a truly democratic society. With close reference to the text discuss this statement. [30]

SECTION B: DRAMA and POETRYSong of a Goat – Clark

Question 3

Discuss some of the oral literary forms Clark has used in the writing of this play. [30]

Crossings – Heywood

Question 4

Compare and contrast the use of imagery in the following poems and comment on the effect this has on the content. [30]

43 THE DRY SEASON

Kwesi Brew (Ghana)

The year is withering; the wind
 Blows down the leaves;
 Men stand under eaves
 And overhear the secrets
 5 Of the cold dry wind,
 Of the half-bare trees.

The grasses are tall and tinted,
 Straw-gold hues of dryness,
 And the contradicting awryness,
 10 Of the dusty roads a-scatter
 With pools of colourful leaves,
 With ghosts of the dreaming year.

And soon, soon the fires,
 The fires will begin to burn,
 15 The hawk will flutter and turn
 On its wings and swoop for the mouse,
 The dogs will run for the hare,
 The hare for its little life.

49 SEASON

Wole Soyinka (Nigeria)

Rust is ripeness, rust,
 And the wilted corn-plume;
 Pollen is mating-time when swallows
 Weave a dance
 5 Of feathered arrows
 Thread corn-stalks in winged
 Streaks of light. And, we loved to hear
 Spliced phrases of the wind, to hear
 Rasps in the field, where corn-leaves
 10 Pierce like bamboo slivers.

Now, garnerers we
 Awaiting rust on tassels, draw
 Long shadows from the dusk, wreath
 Dry thatch in wood-smoke. Laden stalks
 15 Ride the germ's decay – we await
 The promise of the rust.

LINE 8. *spliced*: joined by weaving together, without a knot