

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION

MAY 2015

TITLE OF PAPER : ADVANCED STUDIES IN AFRICAN LITERATURE

COURSE CODE : ENG 404

TIME ALLOWED : TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer any TWO questions. **One from each section.**
2. Each question carries 30 marks. The total marks for the examination is 60%.
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

So Long a Letter – Ba

✗ After the death of her husband Modou, Ramatoulaye turns down marriage offers. Using three ✗ examples discuss the pros and cons of her refusal. [30]

Question 2

The Red Haired Khumalo – Bregin

Through her portrayal of events and characters in this novel, Bregin strongly suggests that despite the teething problems of South Africa's young democracy, the country has a great potential to create a truly democratic society. Examine this statement. [30]

Question 3

The Bird of Heaven - Dunseith

“Even though this novel is overtly apolitical, there are political undertones in the way some characters and incidents are presented.” Discuss this view. [30]

SECTION B: DRAMA AND POETRY

Question 4

‘Song of a Goat’ - Clark

Using three examples, discuss the effect the references to the flora and fauna has on the speeches of characters in the play. [30]

Question 5

Read the poem below and comment on the thoughts, feelings and sentiments expressed by the persona. [30]

56 BREATH

Birago Diop (Senegal)

Listen more to things
 Than to words that are said.
 The water's voice sings
 And the flame cries
 5 And the wind that brings
 The woods to sighs
 Is the breathing of the dead.

Those who are dead have never gone away.
 They are in the shadows darkening around,
 10 They are in the shadows fading into day,
 The dead are not under the ground.
 They are in the trees that quiver,
 They are in the woods that weep,
 They are in the waters of the rivers,
 15 They are in the waters that sleep.
 They are in the crowds, they are in the homestead.
 The dead are never dead.

Listen more to things
 Than to words that are said.
 20 The water's voice sings
 And the flame cries
 And the wind that brings
 The woods to sighs
 Is the breathing of the dead
 25 Who have not gone away
 Who are not under the ground
 Who are never dead.

Those who are dead have never gone away.
 They are at the breast of the wife.
 30 They are in the child's cry of dismay
 And the fire brand bursting into life.
 The dead are not under the ground.
 They are in the fire that burns low
 They are in the grass with tears to shed,
 35 In the rock where whining winds blow