

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE  
FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION  
DECEMBER 2015

COURSE TITLE: A STUDY OF DRAMA

COURSE CODE: ENG 305/IDE ENG 305

TIME ALLOWED: **TWO** HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer **TWO** questions, one from each section.
2. Each question carries 30 marks.
3. Do not repeat or write about the same text at length more than once.
4. Correct use of English and literary conventions will be taken into account.

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

## Section A: Theory

1. Discuss any three features of a play-script showing how they signal its potential for performance. [30]
2. Explain the differences as well as similarities between prose, poetry and drama. [30]

## Section B: Practice

### The Lion and the Jewel - Soyinka

3. Soyinka uses humour to expose the shortcomings of both the western and traditional cultures portrayed in the play. Using two examples from each culture discuss this view. [30]

### The gods are not to blame - Rotimi

4. "The powers would have failed if I did not let them use me. They knew my weakness." Using this statement as a starting point discuss how Odewale's tragic flaw contributes to his downfall. [30]

### Othello - Shakespeare

It is the cause, it is the cause, my soul:  
Let me not name it to you, you chaste stars!  
It is the cause. I'll not shed her blood,  
Nor scar that whiter skin of hers than snow,  
And smooth as monumental alabaster:  
...Yet she must die, else she'll betray more men.  
Put out the light, and then put out the light:  
If I quench thee thou flaming minister,  
I can again thy former light restore,  
Should I repent me; but once put out thy light... (Act V scene 2)

5. Discuss the content of the speech above and explain the circumstances under which it is made. [30]

### Death of a Salesman - Miller

6. Willy Loman's tragedy lies in his failure to accept that salesmen are no longer at the cutting edge of the American dream. With illustrations from the play discuss this statement. [30]