

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION

JULY 2016

COURSE TITLE: ADVANCED STUDIES IN AFRICAN LITERATURE

COURSE CODE: ENG 404/IDE-ENG 404

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 rewarded and the reverse will be penalised.

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INVIGILATOR

SECTION A

So Long a Letter – Ba

1. Even though Binetou is her co-wife and therefore her rival, Ramatoulaye does not vilify her. Discuss the pros and cons of this statement. [30]

The Red Haired Khumalo – Bregin

2. In this novella Bregin presents Chelsea and Nkululeko as characters that have a potential to create a truly non-racial and democratic South Africa. Discuss this statement. [30]

SECTION B

Song of a Goat - Clark

3. The poetic quality of the language in the play emanates from the extensive use of imagery. Using three examples examine this statement [30]

Crossings – Heywood

4. Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow.

“The Dry Season” by Brew

The year is withering; the wind

Blows down the leaves;

Men stand under eaves

And overhear the secrets

Of the cold dry wind,

Of the half-bare trees.

The grasses are tall and tinted,

Straw-gold hues of dryness,

And the contradictory awryness,

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,
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.

- (a) What climatic condition is presented in the poem? Support your answer by citing specific examples from the poem.
- (b) How is this season personified? (5)
- (c) What image of the season is conjured by line 12 of the poem? (3)
- (d) Even though this season spells doom to human and animal life, it still has some beauty. How is this aspect reflected? (7)
- (e) Describe the dangers posed by the season as shown in the last stanza. (8)