

2018

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**  
**SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION**  
**MAY 2018**

TITLE OF PAPER:           **STUDIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN LITERATURE**

COURSE CODE:           **ENG226 / ENG215**

TIME ALLOWED:           **2 HOURS**

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. ANSWER **TWO (2)** QUESTIONS
2. YOUR ANSWERS SHOULD NOT EXCEED THREE (3) PAGES EACH
3. DO NOT REPEAT MATERIAL, 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

This paper should not be opened until permission has been granted by the invigilator.

**QUESTION 1 – “The Bus Conductor” & “The Chief’s Bride”**

Comparatively discuss the portrayal of female characters in Velaphi Mamba’s “The Bus Conductor” and Lucy Dlamini’s “The Chief’s Bride.”

[30]

**QUESTION 2 – “Give Me a Chance” by Mzamane Nhlapho**

The death of her child fortifies Mama KaZili’s resolve to stand up to patriarchy and fight for herself and her children in Mzamane Nhlapho’s “Give Me a Chance.” Discuss this view, drawing clear examples from the story.

[30]

**QUESTION 3 – “Did You Know Lebo?” by Wame Molefhe**

Molefhe’s treatment of the HIV/AIDS theme is somewhat subtle and indirect, paralleling the skirting manner in which HIV/AIDS-related issues are treated in the society. Discuss this view, using clear illustrations from the story.

[30]

**QUESTION 4 – “The Blue Bible” by Grace Maguri**

Discuss the changing perceptions of the Blue Bible in the course of the story, and how it finally becomes a reassuring symbol in the end.

[30]

**QUESTION 5 – “The Homecoming” by Milly Jafta**

The author relies on the first-person narration to reveal the main character’s inner struggles. How effective is the use of this narrative technique in advancing the theme of the story?

[30]

**QUESTION 6 – “The Swapped Medals” by Mia Couto**

Discuss Mia Couto’s “The Swapped Medals” as a satire. What is being satirized, and what is the author’s overall message about this issue?

[30]

**QUESTION 7 – *The Heavens May Fall* by Unity Dow**

Discuss the theme of corruption in Unity Dow’s *The Heavens May Fall* and how it is advanced through characterization.

[30]

**QUESTION 8 – General**

Some of the key thematic issues in Southern African literature include: poverty, HIV/AIDS, corruption, identity, globalization, feminism, and rape, among others. Choose three (3) of these themes and discuss their portrayal in any three literary texts (3) that you have studied in this course.

[30]