

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION

DECEMBER, 2017

TITLE OF PAPER : MODERN CRITICAL THEORY

COURSE CODE : ENG 313 / IDE-ENG 304

TIME ALLOWED : TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer any TWO questions.
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.

Question 1

Read the poems below by Lenrie Peters and answer the questions that following:

We have come home

We have come home
From the bloodless wars
With sunken hearts
Our boots full of pride -
5 From the true massacre of the soul
When we have asked
"What does it cost
To be loved and left alone"

We have come home
10 Bringing the pledge
Which is written in rainbow colours
Across the sky - for burial
But it is not the time
To lay wreaths
15 For yesterday's crimes
Night threatens
Time dissolves
And there is no acquaintance
With tomorrow

20 The gurgling drums
Echo the stars
The forest bowls
And between the trees
The dark sun appears

25 We have come home
When the dawn falters
Singing songs of other lands
The death march
Violating our ears
30 Knowing all our loves and tears
Determined by the spinning coin

We have come home
To the green foothills
To drink from the cup
35 Of warm and mellow birdsong
To the hot beaches
Where the boats go out to sea
Threshing the ocean's harvest
And the hovering plunging
40 Gliding gulls shower kisses on the waves

We have come home
Where through the lightning flash
And thundering rain
The famine the drought,
45 The sudden spirit
Lingers on the road
Supporting the tortured remnants
Of the flesh
That spirit which asks no favour
50 Of the world
But to have dignity.

Questions:

- a) Distinguish between the general perception of postcolonialism and Ashcroft's idea of postcolonialism. (10)
- b) Identify and describe a postcolonial theory that could be used to critically analyse the above poem. (5)
- c) Discuss the tone and mood of the poem. (5)
- d) Identify the main images used by the poet in this poem and comment on how helpful they are in making the readers realize the theme of the poem. (10)

Question 2

The Bolekaja critics vehemently oppose Franz Fanon's Manichean thinking and Homi Bhabha's theory of Hybridity. Critically discuss these theories, showing clearly how they are opposed to each other. [30]

Question 3

Social, political and economic stratification, racism and personal liberty are key factors that led to the development of the variants of feminism." Support this view with evidence from the ideas of feminists or theorists from the first, second and third wave. [30]

Question 4

Modernism is a deliberate and radical break from some of the traditional beliefs of western art and culture. It raises doubts about the adequacy of traditional literary modes to represent the harsh and dissonant realities of the post-world war.

Discuss any two literary texts studied in this course that expose the sensibilities of the avant-garde or modernism.

Question 5

Using any postmodern texts studied in this course, illustrate three characteristics of postmodernism.