

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE  
MAIN EXAMINATION  
MAY 2018

COURSE TITLE: ADVANCED STUDIES IN AFRICAN LITERATURE

COURSE CODE: 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 penalized.

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

## SECTION A: Novels

### So Long a Letter: Mariama Ba

1. "In her treatment of Ramatoulaye and Aissatou, Ba displays both the feminist and the womanist perspectives." Discuss this view in relation to the novella. (30)

### The Red Haired Khumalo: Elana Bregin

2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the view that the way Bregin ends her novel suggests that South Africa can overcome the racial challenges that they face in the post-apartheid era? (30)

### The Bird of Heaven: Peter Dunseith

3. Writers of the magical realist tradition immerse their fiction in local beliefs, symbols and philosophies. How is this reflected through the journey Mandla undertakes in order to retrieve his muti bag? (30)

## Section B: Drama and Poetry

### Song of a Goat: J.P. Clark

4. Comment on how culture, tradition as well as rituals have been used to regulate the lives of members of the community portrayed in Song of a Goat. (30)

### Crossings: A Senior Poetry Anthology: A. Heywood

5. Read this poem and answer the questions that follow

**"The Dry Season"** by K. 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 contradicting awryness,  
Of the dusty roads a – scatter  
With pools of colourful leaves,  
With ghosts of the dreaming year.

And soon, the fires,  
The fires will begin to burn,  
The ghawk will flutter and turn  
On its wings and swoop for the mouse,  
The dogs will run for the hare,  
The hare for its life

- (a) What climatic condition is presented in the poem? Support your answer by citing specific examples from the poem. (7)
- (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)