

# UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION,

AUGUST, 2020

TITLE OF PAPER : ADVANCED STUDIES IN AFRICAN LITERATURE

COURSE CODE : ENG412 / IDE-ENG 404

TIME ALLOWED : TWO (2) HOURS

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. This paper is divided into **two sections**: Section A: Poetry and Drama, Section B: Fiction
2. Answer **TWO (2)** questions in all. Answer **one (1)** question from each section
3. Each question carries 30 marks. The total marks for the examination is 60%.
4. Do not repeat material or write about the same text at length more than once.
5. Candidates are not allowed to bring any reading material into the examination room.
6. 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.**

## SECTION A: POETRY AND DRAMA

### QUESTION 1

Read the following poems, “Old Granny” and “My Grand Mother is My Love”. Compare and contrast them in relation to their personas, subjects, imagery, and the social issues the thematic concerns project. [30 MARKS]

#### **OLD GRANNY**

Bonus Zimunya (Zimbabwe)

A little freezing Spider  
Lags and arms gathered in her chest  
Rocking with flu,  
I saw old Granny  
At Harare Market;  
It was past nine of the night  
When I saw the dusty crumpled Spider  
A torn little blanket  
Was her web.

#### **MY GRANDMOTHER IS MY LOVE**

Eric Mazani (Zimbabwe)

I love my grandmother with the whole of my heart.  
Now she is an old, ancient girl her face has changed, of course.  
My grandmother of ninety years is my love.  
She is a teller of tales.  
5 She is old, bold and always cold.  
Indeed, she is never far from a fire-place.  
*Makadzoka* she is called, for she once died.  
After some time she rose form death.  
*Mushakabvudimbu* they call her in Shona – half-dead.  
10 My life is in her hands and the life of my family too.  
She is half witch, having been taught to cure with herbs.  
Her eyes are out but the sense of touch is strong.  
The sense of smell is there, for she can smell herbs.  
Little, thin grandmother of mine!  
15 Looking so young because of eating so many sweets!  
Sugar-sucker! Ten teaspoons full in each cup of tea!  
My old *ambuya!* *Makadzoka* is my goddess.  
She hates dirt, noise, quarrels and dry food.  
She is ever sitting on her mat in the sun

- 20 Or otherwise hunting for herbs.  
She is ever smiling, but an egg grows in her mouth when  
One annoys her.  
'I wish to die and rest' she says. 'When will this world end?'  
'I am tired.'
- 25 Beside her is a packet of sugar, a sweet sauce of peppered corn.  
Her teeth are brown with rust; her nose is sooty with black snuff.  
*Makadzoka* is my love, I shall look into her dimples  
The laughing dimples are on her chin. They were supposed to be  
Two but there are now a hundred! There are holes where stagnant water  
30 Was scooped out.
- Lovely *Mushakobvu*  
My grandmother  
Is my love.

## QUESTION 2

### **Song of a Goat**

J.P. Clark

How are the beliefs and customs of African people reflected in this play?

**[30 MARKS]**

## SECTION B: FICTION

## QUESTION 3

### **The Red-Haired Khumalo**

Elana Bregin

In what ways may the Fosters' house and Chelsea's school be viewed as microcosms for the new South Africa?

**[30 MARKS]**

## QUESTION 4

### **So Long a Letter**

Mariama Ba

How does Ba use character portrayal to show her African feminist and womanist perspectives in her novella?

**[30 MARKS]**