

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

RE-SIT/ SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION,

JULY, 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, “Pledging My Soul” and “Target” and discuss how the indigenous African landscape is presented. [30 Marks]

PLEDGING MY SOUL

Charles Marechera (Zimbabwe)

When I was a boy
I climbed onto your granite breasts
smooth and round
I trailed my body
5 from the small of your back
to your yielding neck
the cup of your breasts
was my pillow
the rivers of your tears
10 drowned me down in your depths
and the smooth plain of your flat belly
yielded to mine
I was yours
and you were mine.

15 Now a man
in exile from the warmth of your arms
and the milk of your teeth
the breath of your secret whispers in my ears
shall I not stride back to you with haste
20 rout all my enemies and bind the wicked husbandmen
Shall I not kneel to kiss the grains of your sand
to rise naked before you - a bowl of incense?
and the smoke of my nakedness shall be
an offering to you
25 pledging my soul.

LINE 20. husbandmen: fanners. But the meaning of usurpers, adulterers, is also there.

TARGET

Bachir Hadj Ali (Algeria)

As many times as there are worlds
And children dreaming stars
And proffered embers and bitten fruit
5 Shape my heart to her royal heart.
She is armed against the passage of time
The sea smoothes her hair
And the wind
And time flow behind her
10 Without a trace.
As many times as she keeps watch by night
And wakes
And marvels at the dawn
Shape my heart to her royal heart.

QUESTION 2

Discuss how Ijaw birth rites and healing methods are reflected in J. P. Clark's *Song of a Goat*.

[30 Marks]

SECTION B: FICTION

QUESTION 3

In what way can Alex's behaviour and attitude toward the new South Africa be perceived as a reflection of the narrow view of a white liberal in *The Red – Haired Khumalo*? **[30 Marks]**

QUESTION 4

Compare and contrast the marriage experiences of Aissatou and Jacqueline and comment on how ethnicity contributes to the failure of their marriages in *So Long a Letter*. **[30 Marks]**