UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STUDIES

FINAL EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER, MAY 2005

TITLE OF PAPER: WOMEN AND POLITICS IN AFRICA

COURSE CODE: PA 404

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER ANY FOUR (4) QUESTIONS

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BY THE INVILGILATOR

QUESTION 1

Outline the major features of liberal feminism and contrast these with those of socialist feminism. In your view, which of these offers a more comprehensive analysis of the nature of women subordination and male dominance? Support your arguments with relevant examples.

QUESTON 2

"Patriarchy has been widely regarded as a key concept in the analysis of male domination in most societies". How applicable is the concept of patriarchy in the analysis of African societies?

QUESTION 3

Discuss the role of the state in shaping and influencing the status of women in Africa.

QUESTION 4

What are the major factors that account for the existing precarious socio-economic position of women in Africa?

QUESTION 5

"Despite their key role in the struggles for national liberation in many African countries, African women have been largely by-passed by the benefits of independence". Elaborate on the key issues that led to the widespread participation of women in national liberation struggles and the dynamics of their subsequent exclusion in the post-independence era.

QUESTION 6

"The new wave of democratization in Africa is unlikely to yield positive results unless it addresses the gender disparities that currently exist in many African countries". Critically discuss the above statement.

QUESTION 7

"The success of peace building processes in Africa largely depends on the extent to which they recognize the role of women in sustaining these efforts". Critically discuss the above statement.

QUESTION 8

"Against all odds, African women continue to see themselves as agents of change." Elaborate on some of the key initiatives that have placed African women at the centre of social transformation and change on the continent.