

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE  
BACHELOR OF ARTS (SOCIAL SCIENCE) YEAR 2  
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER: MAY 2010

TITLE OF PAPER: CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN POLITICS

COURSE CODE: PA 202

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTION: ANSWER FOUR QUESTIONS ONLY, TWO FROM  
EACH SECTION

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

## SECTION A

1. Except in a few cases, African states set aside the liberal order put in place by the departing colonial governments and centralized state power. Examine the reasons behind this action.
2. The performance of the military was no better than the civilian governments. Critically discuss.
3. The democratization wave in the early 1990s was a popular quest for a change in leadership and demand for people's participation in the economic and political decision-making processes of the state. Show why in most African states this wish could not materialize.
4. Structural Adjustment programmes (SAPs) constituted exchanges, in which on one hand International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and donors provided loans to indebted African states, and on the other hand, the states concerned agreed to pursue the economic policies stipulated by those institutions as a condition for receiving those loans. Indicate what African states were asked to do and determine whether SAPs produced the benefits suggested by their proponents.

## SECTION B

5. The African Union now has institutional mechanisms to promote peace on the continent. However the attempt to secure the continent has its challenges. Analyse these challenges and suggest ways to address them.
6. Discuss the existing socio-cultural and economic difficulties which constrain effective empowerment of women in Africa.
7. In response to popular demand, the continent's leaders agreed to work with civil society groups to find solutions to social, political and economic challenges in Africa. However state-civil society relations are fraught with problems. Discuss the reasons for this uneasy relation.

8. The new development agenda, among other things, aims to promote economic development and end Africa's marginalization from the global economy. Discuss the strategies to achieve these goals.