

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURE**  
**FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2007**

**TITLE OF PAPER:           MODERN LITERATURE I**

**COURSE CODE:           AL202/AL-IDE 202**

**TIME ALLOWED:         THREE (3) HOURS**

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
- 1.     ANSWER THREE (3) QUESTIONS IN ALL, INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE (1) QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION.**
  - 2.     DO NOT REPEAT MATERIAL IN YOUR ANSWERS.**
  - 3.     EACH     QUESTION     SHOULD     BE COMMENCED ON A SEPARATE SHEET.**
  - 4.     IN THE ASSESSMENT OF THIS PAPER, THE QUALITY OF EXPRESSION AND THE PRESENTATION OF THE ANSWER WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.**

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

## **SECTION A: PROSE FICTION**

### **QUESTION 1**

**LA GUMA:- A WALK IN THE NIGHT AND OTHER STORIES**

Discuss the effectiveness of the ironies employed in "BLANKETS". [20 marks]

### **QUESTION 2**

**HEAD B:- THE COLLECTOR OF TREASURES**

Evaluate the nature and quality of the various love stories embedded in "The Village Saint".

[20 marks]

### **QUESTION 3**

**NGUGI wa T.- A GRAIN OF WHEAT**

Discuss the ways and extent to which Karanja is an unprincipled selfish coward and an opportunist. [20 marks]

### **QUESTION 4**

**ACHEBE, C.- ARROW OF GOD**

Discuss the view that the narrative of this novel focuses on disorder.

[20 marks]

## **SECTION B: POETRY**

### **QUESTION 5**

According to Césaire negritude is an act of self affirmation, a decision to affirm and take pride in those things for which the Blackman has been despised. Discuss with reference to at least two poets you have studied.

[20 marks]

### **QUESTION 6**

Discuss how David Diop conveys the sense of cultural pride, colonial oppression and the promise of liberation in his poems which you have studied.

[20 marks]

### **QUESTION 7**

Discuss the conflicts caused by the difference between European and African cultures in the persona in "Once upon a time".

[20 marks]

### **ONCE UPON A TIME**

Once upon a time, son  
they used to laugh with their hearts  
and laugh with their eyes;  
but now they only laugh with their teeth,  
while their ice-block-cold eyes  
search behind my shadow

There was a time indeed  
they used to shake hands with their hearts;  
but that's gone, son,  
Now they shake hands without hearts  
while their left hands search  
my empty pockets.

'Feel at home', Come again,'  
they say, and when I come  
again and feel  
at home, once, twice,  
there will be no thrice –  
for then I find doors shut on me.

So I have learned many things, son.  
I have learned to wear many faces  
like dresses – homeface,  
Office face, streetface, hostface, cocktailface,  
with all their comforting smiles  
like a fixed portrait smile.

And I have learned too  
to laugh with only my teeth  
and shake hands without my heart.

I have also learned to say 'Goodriddance';  
to say 'Glad to meet you';  
without being glad; and to say 'It's been  
nice talking to you' after being bored.

But believe me, son  
I want to be what I used to be  
when I was like you. I want  
to unlearn all these muting things.  
Most of all, I want to relearn  
how to laugh, for my laugh in the mirror  
shows only my teeth like a snake's bare fangs!

So show me, son  
how to laugh; show me how  
I used to laugh and smile  
once upon a time when I was like you.

Gabriel Okara (Nigeria)

### **SECTION C**

#### **DRAMA**

#### **QUESTION 8**

Ama Ata Aidoo: Anowa

"In this play, Anowa is caught between defying conventions of traditional society and refusing to adopt the materialistic values of the rising bourgeoisie". Elaborate this statement with illustrations. [20 marks]

#### **QUESTION 9**

Athol Fugard: Sizwe Bansi is Dead

"Fugard's play speaks forcefully about the indignity of passbooks and their signification as the record of the demoralized lives led by blacks in South Africa". Discuss. [20 marks]

#### **QUESTION 10**

Wole Soyinka: The Lion and the Jewel

"<sup>a</sup>Lakunle emerges as a comic character, but there is an underlying pathos arising from the recognition that he has a split personality" – Do you agree. [20 marks]