COURSE NAME: ADVANCED STUDIES IN THE AFRICAN NOVEL AND BIOGRAPHY/AUTOBIOGRAPHY
COURSE CODE: AL 313 / IDE AL 313
TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. ANSWER THREE (3) QUESTIONS, ONE FROM SECTION – A AND TWO (INCLUDING THE COMPULSORY QUESTION) FROM SECTION – B. EACH QUESTION CARRIES 20 MARKS.

2. EACH QUESTION SHOULD BE COMMENCED ON A SEPARATE SHEET.

3. DO NOT REPEAT MATERIAL OR WRITE ABOUT THE SAME TEXT AT LENGTH MORE THAN ONCE.

4. CANDIDATES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BRING ANY READING MATERIAL INTO THE EXAMINATION HALL.

5. IN THE ASSESSMENT OF THIS PAPER, CORRECT USAGE OF ENGLISH, THE QUALITY OF EXPRESSION AND THE PRESENTATION OF ANSWERS 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

Chinua Achebe: *No Longer at Ease*

He (Obi) no longer felt guilt. He, too, had died. Beyond death there are no ideals, no humbug, only reality. The impatient idealist says: 'Give me a place to stand and I shall move the earth.' But such a place does not exist. We all have to stand on the earth itself and go with her at her pace."

With reference to the above quotation, discuss as to how Obi the idealist's optimism fades and is being replaced by Obi the materialist's pessimism.

QUESTION 2

Chenjerai Hove: *Bones*

"The stories in the novel intertwine to form a history of the lives of the peasants . . . . Each story serves to further humanize the speaker as it brings forth their individual identity through their own voice and experience." Comment with relevant textual illustrations.

QUESTION 3

Tsitsi Dangarembga: *Nervous Conditions*

"The narrator of the novel categorizes women into "escaped females", "entrapped females" and "rebellious females."

Choose any one of the categories above and discuss the characters that belong to the category.
SECTION – B
BIOGRAPHY / AUTOBIOGRAPHY

QUESTION 3 (COMPULSORY)
Write short notes on:

a. Ethnographic autobiography
b. Political memoir

QUESTION 4
Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom

“Under apartheid, a black man lived a shadowy life between legality and illegality, between openness and concealment. To be a blackman in South Africa meant not to trust anything, which was not unlike living underground for one’s entire life.”

Comment on the above statement and relate it to Mandela’s underground living.

QUESTION 5

Hilda Kuper: Sobhuza II: Ngwenyama and King of Swaziland

Discuss how the Western world overlapped with the African (Swazi) world in the young King Sobhuza’s education.