

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION
JULY 2014

**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 ANSWER SHOULD COMMENCE 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: NOVEL

QUESTION ONE

Chinua Achebe: No Longer at Ease

“A university degree was the philosopher’s stone. It transmuted a third-class clerk in one hundred and fifty a year into a senior civil servant on five hundred and seventy with car and luxuriously furnished quarters at nominal rent.”

Discuss the theme of education in the novel and relate it to the given quotation above.

QUESTION TWO

Chenjerai Hove: Bones

“Ngugi wa Thiong’o in his book, Decolonising the Mind argues that it is essential for African writers to write in their own languages instead of the colonizer’s language and that the choice of language is a tool of resistance and a means of affirming the integrity of one’s culture.”

Do you think that Ngugi’s argument is justified when one is confronted with the language used by Hove in Bones? State your reasons.

SECTION – B

BIOGRAPHY / AUTOBIOGRAPHY

QUESTION THREE (COMPULSORY)

Discuss the following topics with relevant examples.

- a. Political Autobiography / Political Memoir
- b. Apartheid and Autobiography

QUESTION FOUR

Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom

“Freedom is indivisible, the chains on any one of my people were the chains on all of them, the chains of my people were the chains on me.” Comment on Mandela’s concept of freedom.

QUESTION FIVE

Hilda Kuper: Sobhuza II: Ngwenyama and the King of Swaziland

Write short notes on the following:

- a. Swazi Marriage customs and rituals
- b. *Incwala* (small and main *Incwala*)