UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

TITLE OF PAPER: POSTCOLONIAL AFRICAN POETRY & DRAMA/CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN POETRY AND DRAMA

COURSE CODE: ALL 202 /IDE AL 213 MAIN MAY EXAMINATION, 2017

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS

(1) ANSWER (THREE) 3 QUESTIONS IN ALL
(2) DO NOT REPEAT MATERIAL IN YOUR ANSWERS
(3) EACH QUESTION SHOULD BE COMMENCED ON A FRESH SHEET
(4) CLARITY OF EXPRESSION AND EFFECTIVE ORGANISATION OF ANSWER CONTENT WILL COUNT IN THE AWARD OF POINTS FOR THIS PAPER
(5) EACH QUESTION IS WORTH 33 MARKS
(6) IN THE DRAMA SECTION, ANSWER AT LEAST ONE QUESTION FROM EACH OF THE TWO PLAYS

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR
SECTION A: POETRY – Answer at least one question from this section.

Question 1

Read the attached poem by Maganthrie Pillay titled 'Warrior Marks,' and comment on its themes and stylistic devices.

Question 2

'Poetry is not all seriousness. It can be humorous while addressing serious issues.' With the aid of poems you have studied this semester, show that indeed poetry does address serious issues in a humorous way.

SECTION B: DRAMA – Answer at least one question from this section.

The Imprisonment of Obatala by Ijimire, Obotunde

Question 3

Discuss the genesis, progress and conclusion of the conflict in The Imprisonment of Obatala. What is the significance of the fact that the story ends where it began?

Question 4

Discuss bawdy imagery and bodily fluids and explain if these are strengths or weaknesses of the play.

Question 5

Woyengi by Ijimire, Obotunde

'The play Woyengi, does lend itself to a feminist reading, but only so far.' What complicates the reading of Woyengi as a feminist play?

Question 6

How does Ijimire depict a rebel who nevertheless wins the sympathies of the audience? And does the audience's sympathising with the rebel make us critical of Woyengi?

END
MAGANTHRIE PILLAY (b. 1971)

Warrior Marks

If only stretch marks
Were marks of honour
Warrior marks of love
If only we marveled
At the miracle of birth
In all its splendor
And all that remains
Glorious stretch marks
On stomach
Thighs and buttocks
If people ululated when they saw
A woman's body marked
With the labour of love
If they would form a circle around her
Dance their joy and appreciation
For what she has achieved
Conceived and they received
A new little person
To give love and be loved!

If only stretch marks
Were marks of honour
And not marks of shame
Wearers of which
Swath and conceal them
From all eyes
Even their own
Some never recover
From the quiet consuming loathing
Envy of smooth-skinned shapely forms
Hating their forever changed bodies
Used as a vessel
And little reward
But years of exhaustion
And some smiles
Sometimes.
The unborn calls on his
the lover's
You are as beautiful as ever
What he wandered past
It was an empty path walked
But those wander paths of love
Are for the far one
For our blue sea
Following his eyes with hers
Knowing heragher article
She made a nationally small

But it cannot decide
Knowing marks of honour
Wherever marks of love
She would be sold
Some there is proof of her living
Of her gift of the heart
If anyone desired somewhere
And celebrated her gift to them
She would know
She was a wanderer
Of unconditional love
She would explore the大地
With pandemic joy
She would send poems

As a wanderer of love.