

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

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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 SUPPLEMENTARY 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

## SIPHO SEPAMLA (1932-2007)

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### To WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Bearer  
Bare of everything but particulars  
Is a Bantu  
The language of a people in southern Africa  
He seeks to proceed from here to there  
Please pass him on  
Subject to these particulars  
He lives  
Subject to the provisions  
Of the Urban Natives Act of 1925  
Amended often  
To update it to his sophistication  
Subject to the provisions of the said Act  
He may roam freely within a prescribed area  
Free only from the anxiety of conscription  
In terms of the Abolition of Passes Act  
A latter-day amendment  
In keeping with the moon-age naming  
Bearer's designation is Reference number 417181  
And (he) acquires a niche in the said area  
As a temporary sojourner  
To which he must betake himself  
At all times  
When his services are dispensed with for the day  
As a permanent measure of law and order  
Please note  
The remains of R/N 417181  
Will be laid to rest in peace  
On a plot  
Set aside for Methodist Xhosas  
A measure also adopted  
At the express request of the Bantu  
In anticipation of any faction fight  
Before the Day of Judgement.

SECTION A: POETRY – Answer at least **one** question from this section

Question 1

Read the attached poem by Siphso Sepamla titled 'To Whom It May Concern.' Why do you think that the legal-sounding language is most effective in conveying the themes of this poem?

Question 2

'Poetry without metaphorical language and imagery is a contradiction in terms.' Discuss the merits of this statement with the aid of examples from the poems we studied this semester.

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

Question 3

*The Imprisonment of Obatala* by Ijimire, Obotunde

What do this play's poetic elements contribute to characterization?

Question 4

'Without the the trickster figure and the journey motif, *The Imprisonment of Obatala* would not be such a compelling play.' Discuss this view with evidence from the text of the play.

Question 5

*Woyengi* by Ijimire, Obotunde

'A being's ability to reason and choose their destiny before being formed in the play, *Woyengi*, is parallel to a teenager's being privileged to make crucial decisions about who/what they plan to be.' To what extent do you agree with this statement? How would you use this play to mentor teenagers about making choices?

Question 6

Discuss the poetic features of the incantations of Ogboinba and the three kings.

END