

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION**  
**JULY 2018**

**COURSE NAME: ADVANCED STUDIES IN AFRICAN POETRY AND DRAMA**

**COURSE CODE: AL 314/IDE AL 314**

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

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS. CHOOSE QUESTIONS FROM BOTH SECTIONS. 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 EXPRESSIONS 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**

**POETRY**

**QUESTION ONE**

**Gabriel Okara: “Piano and Drums”**

“Then I hear a wailing piano  
Solo speaking of complex ways  
In tear-furrowed concert;  
Of far away lands  
And new horizons with  
Coaxing diminuendo, counterpoint,  
Crescendo.”

What is the significance of these lines in Gabriel Okara’s poem and what do these lines contrast in the poem?

**QUESTION TWO**

**Syl Cheney-Coker: Freetown**

“my heart becomes a citadel of disgust  
and I am unable to write the poem of your life  
my creation haunts me behind the mythical dream  
my river dammed by the poisonous weeds in its bed”

What is the significance of the above lines and how does Cheney-Coker portray the conflicting emotions of wanting to claim an African patrimony and yet knowing that he has a creole parentage which he refers to “the agony planted in my soul”?



**QUESTION THREE**

**Antonio Jacinto: “Letter from a Contract Worker”**

What is ‘pathetic fallacy’ and how does Antonio Jacinto employ this technique in his poem, “Letter from a Contract Worker”?

**SECTION – B**

**DRAMA**

**QUESTION FOUR**

**Athol Fugard, John Kani and Winston Ntshona: The Island**

“The play, The Island is an act of open defiance, an assertion of human dignity and an unequivocal affirmation of the inherent nobility of humanity.” Discuss the survival techniques used by John and Winston to keep their humanity and sanity intact in a hostile environment.

**QUESTION FIVE**

**Ama Ata Aidoo: Anowa**

“Anowa’s determination to be true to herself and her principles, her vision, results in her becoming an outcast, rejected by her own family and branded as a witch by her husband, before he too casts her out.” Substantiate the above statement with textual illustrations.