

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
MAIN EXAMINATION
MAY 2018

COURSE NAME: THEMATIC STUDIES IN AFRICAN POETRY AND DRAMA

COURSE CODE: AL 415 / IDE AL 415

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

“..... it isn’t enough
to go in search of the lone hero
while the common thief inherits our ancient stools...” (Anyidoho’s “Hero and Thief”)

“How can I stay here
Where rascals are heroes?
Where murder and maiming
Receive loud thunderous acclaim.” (Tuurosong’s “I Don’t Belong Here”)

Compare and contrast the thematic concerns in Kofi Anyidoho’s “Hero and Thief” and Damascus Tuurosong’s “I Don’t Belong Here,” paying particular attention to the given extracts above.

QUESTION TWO

Eric Mazani’s “My Grandmother is my Love”, Bonus Zimunya’s “Old Granny” and A. L. Henricks’ “An Old Jamaican Woman thinks about the Hereafter”

Give a comparative perspective on the above three poems in relation to their personas, subject matter and tone.

QUESTION THREE

Kofi Awoonor’s “We Have Found a New Land” and Lenrie Peters’ “Lost Friends”

“Postcolonial Africa is marked by the destruction of the sound moral ethics of traditional society and the elevation of materialism to an unhealthy and unprecedented height.”
Discuss this statement with illustrations from the above poems.

SECTION – B

DRAMA

QUESTION FOUR

Wole Soyinka: Death and the King's Horseman

“Death and life are seen as parallels in the first scene, and even when they meet, they meet in harmony and in the final scene they become an encounter, and death, instead of being a continuation of life becomes an escape from it.” Discuss this statement in relation to the events portrayed in scenes one and five.

QUESTION FIVE

Athol Fugard: Exits and Entrances

“The calamity of too long a life. His creativity was exhausted and he knew it. Poor Eugene! He’s been a lot in my thoughts lately.”

Whose words are these in the play? How does the above quotation relate to the speaker’s character?