

UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
MAIN EXAMINATION
MAY 2019

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**

“So the thieving hand has reaped much more than farm owner
and the harvest dream transforms into slow funereal hopes
the rice harvest has gone to weaverbird
the corn-on-cob has gone to grasscutter
the yam-in-the-mound was carried off by rat...” (Kofi Anyidoho’s “Hero and Thief”)

“I can’t stay here
Where the beer-bellied blokes
Eat the misery meal of the refugee;
Where drunkards drink the blood
Of the anaemic child.” (Damasus Tuurosang’s “I don’t Belong Here”)

Comment on the inverted values in postcolonial African society as portrayed by the Ghanaian poets in their poems. Take your cue from the above excerpts.

QUESTION TWO

How does Kofi Anyidoho create an informal setting and tone to make a stern judgement on a civilization without sounding self-righteous, in his poem “Long Distance Runner”?

QUESTION THREE

“Even though Rubadiri’s “Stanley Meets Mutesa” and T. S. Eliot’s “The Journey of the Magi” focus on two different themes, T. S. Eliot’s Magi, seeking out the new-born Christ have become the explorer Stanley and his commandeered band of porters bringing new dispensation to Mutesa.” Write a critical assessment of this statement.

SECTION – B

DRAMA

QUESTION FOUR

Wole Soyinka: Death and the King's Horseman

Soyinka, in his essay, "The Fourth Stage" on the tragic element in Yoruba art seeks to demonstrate that "in a tragic situation both the challenging figure – the tragic hero – and the challenged order – nature, society- are equally to be respected and that each must play its role if man is to experience life as it should be experienced: integrally and wholly."

Discuss this theory in relation to the tragic hero and his society in Soyinka's play.

QUESTION FIVE

Athol Fugard: Exits and Entrances

"What I saw tonight was a journey from arrogant pride to humility."

Whose words are these and who is the character addressing? Discuss with relevant textual illustration about the journey that the character refers to in the above quotation.