

UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
MAIN EXAMINATION, AUGUST 2020

TITLE OF PAPER: TRADITIONAL/ORAL LITERATURE II

COURSE CODE: AL 416 (FT) / AL 416 (IDE)

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: 1. ANSWER **THREE** (3) QUESTIONS: QUESTION **ONE** (1) AND ANY **TWO** OTHER QUESTIONS.

2. BEGIN EACH ANSWER ON A SEPARATE PAGE.

3. CANDIDATES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BRING ANY READING MATERIAL INTO THE EXAMINATION HALL.

4. IN THE ASSESSMENT OF THIS PAPER, CORRECT USAGE OF ENGLISH, THE QUALITY OF EXPRESSION AND THE PRESENTATION OF ANSWERS WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR GIVES YOU PERMISSION TO OPEN IT.

SECTION A: COMPULSORY

Answer question ONE in this section.

Question 1

Explore the disappointment presented in the Swazi proverbs below:

- | | |
|---|---|
| a) Ayihlabi ngakumisa | <i>It does not fight by having horns</i> |
| b) Lukhuni lutala umlotsa | <i>Firewood begets ashes</i> |
| c) Ematsanga ahlantela labangenamabhodo | <i>Pumpkins grow for those without pots</i> |
- (20 Marks)

SECTION B

Answer any TWO questions from this section.

Question 2

Oral poems archive valuable historical information. Comment on the historic events that surrounded Queen Ntfombi's queenship as revealed in the extract below: (20 Marks)

INDLOVUKATI NTOMBI (LATFWALA)

Lutsango lwakaNgwane
Nginikeni lifahlawane,
LiNyamandze lakaLaSiwela
Litse dzimu inyandza,
Kwafutfumal'eMasundvu naZithehlezi,
Lobamba wabambana, Ludzidzi lwenaba,
Sagabis'iNgabezweni, sasing'iNkoyoyo umkhanya.

Nkhomo katingen'edamu tiyacabelana,
Nshivakati lengenamphondvo,
Phondvo lwendlovu
Ulwemukele kubabekati Mnengwase,
Banemntfwana Sozisa anguweGundvwini,
Bakwembesa lugogo lwengwe lemabalabala.

Mhambi wemkhond'ongaziwa ngezinye izindlovu,
Uludvwendvwe lusuk'eHlane,
Was'uyacotfota Nhlandlokati,
Wadlalisela wasikisa gabazi.

Tandla tendlovu ngiyatesaba,
Ngekugamula tisibekele imilomo
Yetingwenya.

Titawubhasha emaviyo ngemaviyo,
Ticheme ngeticheme.
Nawe Tembulalave, Tebungedzama
Tebusweti naTendlala,
Bayeta boMshamndane, Mdlanyoka, Maphungindlala,
Iyeta iNdlovu lemasondvosondvo,
Uyeta Lomasitila, Lomangcivitakhweshe,
Utawutsi ngcivi!! ngcivi!! siti!! siti!! kuyawunetsetela.

Lesihlahla semsinsi
Sihlum'ekhatsi'eLudzidzini,
Tjel'indvuna Jim Gama itsatse umboyi,
Ibabel'esiteshini semabhansi kaManzin'edolobheni.

Question 3

Citing specific examples from the epic “The Legend of Liyongo,” discuss the Plot and Setting of African oral epics. (20 Marks)

Question 4

Critically analyse the riddles below:

- a) Ngikuphica ngenkhosi letsetsa itsetse, ikhiphe umlilo, iphose ematje, bese ikhala tinyembeti. *I quiz you with a king that shouts and shouts, spits fire, throws stones and then cries.*
- a) Ngikuphica ngesalukati sami sihleti ecasini sibeke ludvondvolo eceleni kwaso. *I quiz you with an old woman who is sitting on a grass mat with a walking stick on her side.*

(20 Marks)

Question 5

Elaborate on the significance of a praise singer or *imbongi* in Swazi praise poetry.

(20 Marks)