

**UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI**  
**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION**  
**SEPTEMBER 2020**

**TITLE OF PAPER : THEMATIC STUDIES IN AFRICAN POETRY  
AND DRAMA**

**COURSE CODE : IDE AL415**

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

**INSTRUCTIONS**

ANSWER **THREE (3)** QUESTIONS IN ALL, CHOOSING FROM BOTH SECTIONS.

EACH QUESTION CARRIES 20 MARKS.

DO NOT REPEAT MATERIAL IN YOUR ANSWERS.

COMMENCE EACH ANSWER ON A FRESH PAGE.

CLARITY OF EXPRESSION AND ORGANISATION OF CONTENT WILL COUNT IN  
THE ASSESSMENT OF THIS PAPER

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION TO DO SO HAS BEEN  
GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR

## SECTION A: AFRICAN POETRY

### Question 1

In what ways can poetry be said to have been a faithful companion of pre-colonial African societies?

### Question 2

Ali Ahmed: *Anthology of Swahili Poetry* (1977)

Using any **two** poems studied on the course, discuss the view that 'didacticism occupies a central place in Shaaban Robert's poetry.'

### Question 3

Freedom Nyamubaya: *On the Road Again* (1986)

In the anthology, the poet shows that Africans are 'on the road again.' What road is this, and using any **two** poems, illustrate how this is brought out.

## AFRICAN DRAMA

### Question 4

Discuss the elements/aspects of drama and illustrate why African religious practices can be considered part of this art form.

### Question 5

Efua T. Sunderland: *The Marriage of Anansewa* (1975)

Critically explore the ways in which the playwright can be said to have deviated from Western/European conventional forms of drama.

### Question 6

Wole Soyinka: *Death and the King's Horseman* (1975)

How does Soyinka's play demonstrate that the betrayal of trust and duty leads almost inevitably to tragedy and disaster, and the more significant the individual the greater the consequence of the betrayal?

Question 7

Ngugi wa Thiongo and Ngugi wa Mirii: *I Will Marry When I Want* (1982)

Examine the centrality and functional role of song in the play.

**END OF PAPER**