

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION 2009

- COURSE TITLE: ADVANCED STUDIES IN AFRICAN LITERATURE
- COURSE CODE: ENG 404-IDE-ENG 404/E4P3
- TIME ALLOWED: TWO HOURS (ENG 404/IDE-ENG 404)
THREE HOURS (E4P3)
- INSTRUCTION:
1. ENG 404, IDE-ENG 404 Answer TWO questions, one from each section. E4P3 Answer three questions, TWO from section A and ONE from section B.
 2. Do not repeat material or write about the same text more than once.
 3. Correct use of English and literary conventions will be rewarded and the reverse will be penalised.

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

SECTION A

So Long a Letter - Ba

1. "In her treatment of Ramatoulaye and Aissatou Ba displays both the feminist and the womanist perspectives." Discuss this view in relation to the novella. (30)

Either

The Mending Season - Molohe

2. Discuss the way in which Tsidi's town school can be viewed as the microcosm of the newly transformed South African society. [30]

Or

The Red Head Khumalo - Bregin

3. Discuss some of the fears and anxieties that emerge as the vastly different worlds of the township and the suburb meet through the interaction of the Forster and Khumalo families. [30]

Yoraniyyoto – Mnthali

4. How does Mnthali's writing reflect his knowledge of the works of great scholars of the English literary tradition? [30]

SECTION B

Blood Knot – Fugard

5. Morris is light skinned and he possesses a Bible and a clock. What are the implications of these on the relationship of the two brothers? [30]

Song of a Goat – Clark

6. Comment on the effect of the use of elevated or poetic language in this play.[30]

7. Crossings – Heywood

Read this poem and answer the questions that follow.

'Pledging My Soul' by Charles Marechera.

When I was a boy
I climbed onto your granite breasts
smooth and round
I trailed my body
5 from the small of your back
to your yielding neck
the cup of your breasts
was my pillow
the rivers of your tears
10 drowned me down in your depths
and the smooth plain of your flat belly
yielded to mine
I was yours
and you were mine.
15 Now a man
in exile from the warmth of your arms
and the milk of your teeth
the breath of your secret whispers in my ears
shall I not stride back to you with haste
20 rout all my enemies and bind the wicked husbandmen
Shall I not kneel to kiss the grains of your sand
to rise naked before you – a bowl of incense?
and the smoke of my nakedness shall be
an offering to you
25 pledging my soul.

LINE 20. *husbandmen*: farmers. But the meaning of usurpers, adulterers, is also there.

- (a) Comment on the way the country is characterised in the poem (12)
 - (b) Compare the tone of the first fourteen lines and the last eleven lines of the poem (12)
 - (c) What political view is expressed in this poem? (6)
7. Comment on the use of rituals in some of the poems you have studied in this course. [30]