

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION

JULY, 2015

TITLE OF PAPER : INTRODUCTION TO CRITICAL THEORY

COURSE CODE : ENG 204 / IDE-ENG 204

TIME ALLOWED : TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer any TWO questions.
2. Each question carries 30 marks. The total marks for the examination is 60%.
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 room.
5. Correct use of English and literary conventions will be rewarded and the contrary will be penalised.

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

Question 1

Despite the difference in the conception of Sidney and Longinus' theories of literature, they both subscribe to the idea of the centrality of the reader / audience in the study of literature. How does each one of them express this? [30]

Question 2

Plato, Aristotle and Sidney use the concept of imitation in their respective theories of literature. Distinguish between their views of imitation. [30]

Question 3

Describe the main argument of formalism critics in literary study and then analyse the following poems using formalist critical theory. [30]

CITY JOHANNESBURG

Mongane Wally Serote

This way I salute you:
My hand pulses to my back trousers pocket
Or into my inner jacket pocket
For my pass, my life,
Jo'burg City.

My hand like a starved snake rears my pockets
For my thin, ever lean wallet,
While my stomach groans a friendly smile to hunger,
Jo'burg City.
My stomach also devours coppers and papers
Don't you know?
Jo'burg City, I salute you;
When I run out, or roar in a bus to you,
I leave behind me, my love,
My comic houses and people, my dongas and my ever-whirling dust,
My death,
That's so related to me as a wink to the eye.
Jo'burg City
I travel on your black and white roboted roads,
Through your thick iron breath that you inhale
At six in the morning and exhale from five noon.

Jo'burg City

That is the time when I come to you,
When your neon flowers flaunt from your electrical wind,
That is the time when I leave you,
When your neon flowers flaunt their way through the falling darkness
On your cement trees.
And as I go back, to my love,
My dongas, my dust, my people, my death,
Where death lurks in the dark like a blade in the flesh,
I can feel your roots, anchoring your might, my feebleness
In my flesh, in my mind, in my blood,
And everything about you says it,
That, that is all you need of me.
Jo'burg City, Johannesburg,
Listen when I tell you,
There is no fun, nothing, in it,
When you leave the women and men with such frozen expressions,
Expressions that have tears like furrows of soil erosion,
Jo'burg City, you are dry like death,
Jo'burg City, Johannesburg, Jo'burg City.

Question 4

“Although the Anglo-American New Criticism and the Russian Formalism are objective criticisms, they differ significantly on how the work of literature, as a central coordinate, should be studied.” Discuss how these two criticisms are similar and also how they differ in their approaches to literary study. [30]

Question 5

Discuss the story, “Beggars My Neighbour”, as a Marxist’s representation by Dan Jacobson of the trauma of Apartheid in S.A. [30]