

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION-MAY 2012

TITLE OF PAPER: TRADITIONAL/ORAL LITERATURE 1

COURSE CODE : AL 214 / IDE-AL 214

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
- 1. ANSWER QUESTION ONE, AND TWO OTHER QUESTIONS. IN ALL, ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS**
 - 2. EACH QUESTION SHOULD BE COMMENCED ON A SEPARATE PAGE.**
 - 3. CANDIDATES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BRING ANY READING MATERIAL INTO THE EXAMINATION HALL**
 - 4. IN THE ASSESMENT OF THIS PAPER, CORRECT USAGE OF ENGLISH, THE QUALITY OF EXPRESSION 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.

TRADITIONAL/ ORAL LITERATURE 1

**INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER QUESTION ONE, AND TWO OTHER QUESTIONS.
IN ALL, ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS**

1. Analyze the following children's poem in terms of its content and theme, clearly identifying the social group to whom it is addressed as a means of social control, and also justifying its inclusion in children's literature. (20 marks).

Bhelebane, bhelebane, kfw, kfw, kfw
Inkom'endala, kfw, kfw, kfw
Ayiboshwa ngetjani, kfw, kfw, kfw
Iboshwa ngendilimo, kfw, kfw, kfw
Esibayeni, kfw, kfw, kfw
Mangeth, uyagula, kfw, kfw, kfw
Unekhubhalo, kfw, kfw, kfw
Bambuta phansi
Bambut'etulu

Bhalebane, bhalebane
A full grown bull
Is it not to be tied with a grass rope
But with a leather rope
Inside the kraal
Mangathe is terribly sick
Engulfed with a deadly STD
He was assailed with questions
High and low, left and right.

2. Discuss the diction of the lullaby quoted below paying particular attention to the poetic devices that have been employed to make its content look like a “prescription” for raising a Swazi boy-child. (20 marks)

Ngubani Lo? Ngu Yeye

Uhamba nabani? Neyise

Umphatseleni? Emasi

Ngendzebe lenjani? Lebovu

Wayibekaphi? Esibayeni

Lesingakanani? Lesikhulu

Who is this? It is Yeye

Whom is he walking with? With his father

What is the father carrying for him? Emasi food

In what kind of container? Red one

Where did he put it? In the cattle kraal

How big is the kraal? A very large one.

3. Critically analyze the following dirge paying particular attention to “style” and “the theme of transition” (20 marks)

O-o-o-o-o-o.-o-OOO

The pillar of our house has fallen

The father of my children is no more.

Who will shield us from our enemies?

Who will clear the bush for us to farm?

Who will provide me with cooking oil?

When he was alive

The children were strong and healthy,

Now that he is dead,
They will suffer from hunger and thirst.
O death, why did you choose this moment to
Knock at my door?
Merciless death, why did you only
Decide to put off the fire that burns in my hut?

4. How does the performance of funeral poetry contribute to the understanding and interpretation of the meaning, causes and effects of death in Swazi oral tradition? Use relevant examples to justify your answer.

5. What is Epic poetry? (5 marks)

How is it different from other forms of oral poetry? (15 marks).

6. Comment briefly on the following forms of oral poetry in Swaziland

- a. Lullabies (4 marks)
- b. Prayers (4 marks)
- c. Protest songs (4 marks)
- d. Tinanatelo (4 marks)
- e. Love songs (4 marks)

7. Discuss the idea that “although praise poetry basically extols the good qualities of their objects, they sometimes satirize or even criticize the bad ones”. Use relevant examples to justify your point. (20 marks)