

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

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FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

TITLE OF PAPER: POSTCOLONIAL AFRICAN POETRY & DRAMA/CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN POETRY
AND DRAMA

COURSE CODE: ALL 202 /IDE AL 213 SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION, 2017

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) ANSWER (THREE) 3 QUESTIONS IN ALL
 - (2) DO NOT REPEAT MATERIAL IN YOUR ANSWERS
 - (3) EACH QUESTION SHOULD BE COMMENCED ON A FRESH SHEET
 - (4) CLARITY OF EXPRESSION AND EFFECTIVE ORGANISATION OF ANSWER CONTENT WILL COUNT IN THE AWARD OF POINTS FOR THIS PAPER
 - (5) EACH QUESTION IS WORTH 33 MARKS
 - (6) IN THE DRAMA SECTION, ANSWER AT LEAST ONE QUESTION FROM EACH OF THE TWO PLAYS
- THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR

SIPHO SEPAMLA (1932-2007)

To WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Bearer
Bare of everything but particulars
Is a Bantu
The language of a people in southern Africa
He seeks to proceed from here to there
Please pass him on
Subject to these particulars
~~He~~ lives
Subject to the provisions
Of the Urban Natives Act of 1925
Amended often
To update it to his sophistication
Subject to the provisions of the said Act
He may roam freely within a prescribed area
Free only from the anxiety of conscription
In terms of the Abolition of Passes Act
A latter-day amendment
In keeping with the moon-age naming
Bearer's designation is Reference number 417181
And (he) acquires a niche in the said area
As a temporary sojourner
To which he must betake himself
At all times
When his services are dispensed with for the day
As a permanent measure of law and order
Please note
The remains of R/N 417181
Will be laid to rest in peace
On a plot
Set aside for Methodist Xhosas
A measure also adopted
At the express request of the Bantu
In anticipation of any faction fight
Before the Day of Judgement.

SECTION A: POETRY – Answer at least **one** question from this section

Question 1

Read the attached poem by Sipho Sepamla titled 'To Whom It May Concern.' Why do you think that the legal-sounding language is most effective in conveying the themes of this poem?

Question 2

'Poetry without metaphorical language and imagery is a contradiction in terms.' Discuss the merits of this statement with the aid of examples from the poems we studied this semester.

SECTION B: DRAMA – Answer at least one question from this section.

Question 3

The Imprisonment of Obatala by Ijimire, Obotunde

What do this play's poetic elements contribute to characterization?

Question 4

'Without the the trickster figure and the journey motif, *The Imprisonment of Obatala* would not be such a compelling play.' Discuss this view with evidence from the text of the play.

Question 5

Woyengi by Ijimire, Obotunde

'A being's ability to reason and choose their destiny before being formed in the play, *Woyengi*, is parallel to a teenager's being privileged to make crucial decisions about who/what they plan to be.' To what extent do you agree with this statement? How would you use this play to mentor teenagers about making choices?

Question 6

Discuss the poetic features of the incantations of Ogboinba and the three kings.

END