

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION 2013

COURSE TITLE: ADVANCED STUDIES IN AFRICAN LITERATURE

COURSE CODE: ENG 404

TIME ALLOWED: TWO HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: 1. Answer TWO questions.

2. Your answers should not exceed three pages.

3. Do not repeat material or write about the same text more than once.

4. Correct use of English and literary conventions will be rewarded and the reverse will be penalized.

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

Section A: Novels

Question 1

Compare and contrast the marriage experiences of Aissatou and Jacqueline and comment on how ethnicity contributes to the failure of their marriages in So Long a Letter. [30]

Question 2

In what way can Alex's behaviour and attitude toward the new South Africa be seen as a reflection of the limited view of a white liberal in The Red Haired Khumalo? [30]

Question 3

Discuss the role and significance of lusekwane and the black bull in the Incwala ritual as presented in The Bird of Heaven. [30]

Section B: Drama and Poetry

Question 4

Discuss how Ijaw birth rites and healing methods are reflected in J. P. Clark's Song of a Goat. [30]

Question 5

What Negritude thematic concerns are manifest in the poem that is attached? [30]

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Birago Diop (Senegal)

- In one of the three jugs
the three jugs where on certain evenings return
the tranquil souls,
the breaths of the ancestors,
5 the ancestors who were men,
the ancestors who were sages,
Mother has dipped three fingers
three fingers of her left hand:
thumb, forefinger and middle finger
- 10 I have dipped three fingers
three fingers of my right hand:
thumb, forefinger and middle finger.
- With her three fingers red with blood,
with dog's blood,
15 with bull's blood,
with goat's blood,
Mother has touched me three times.
She touched my forehead with her thumb,
with her forefinger my left breast
20 and my navel with her middle finger.
I have held out my fingers red with blood,
with dog's blood,
with bull's blood,
with goat's blood,
- 25 I have held my three fingers to the winds
the north wind, the east wind,
the south wind, the west wind;
and I have raised my three fingers towards the Moon
towards the full Moon, the full, naked Moon
30 when she was at the bottom of the biggest jug.
I have thrust my three fingers into the sand,
into the sand which had grown cool.
Mother said: 'Go through the World, go
in Life. They will follow thy traces.'
- 35 Since then I go,
I go by the tracks,
by the tracks and on the roads,
beyond the sea and further still
beyond the sea and further, further still,
40 beyond the sea and beyond the place beyond.
And when I come to the wicked men,
the black-hearted men,
when I come to the envious,
the black-hearted men,
45 before me advance the breaths of the forefathers.