



# MERU UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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## University Examinations 2024/2025

### THIRD YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION ARTS

#### ELI 3300: SOUTH AFRICAN LITERATURE

DATE: JANUARY 2025

TIME: 2 HOURS

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INSTRUCTIONS: Answer question *one* and any other *two* questions

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#### QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- (a) With relevant illustrations from at least two texts studied in class, explain how the apartheid policy has shaped content of South African literature. (10 marks)
- (b) Describe the role mining as a colonial economic activity has played to influence South African literature (10 marks)
- (c) Using illustrations from South African poetry, demonstrate the role culture has played to influence content. (10 marks)

#### QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- a) Discuss the use of political satire in Athol Fugard's **Siziwe Banzi is Dead** (10 marks)
- b) Describe the use of symbolism in Peter Abraham's **Mine Boy** (10 marks)

#### QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

Examine any five themes addressed in **The Fog of the Season End** by Alex La Guma.

(20 marks)

#### QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

Identify and describe any three thematic concerns addressed in Athol Fugard's **The blood Knot**  
(12 marks)

How are gender roles portrayed in Fugard's plays? (8 marks)

#### QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow.

"First Day After the War"

We heard singing coming from a wedding, and  
noticed how gentle light bent its way around  
fresh grass. We felt hesitant at first, but then we  
noticed the footprints of a female figure. Her  
face appeared before us with its joyful eyes,  
which conveyed freedom. She woke us up,  
smiling, and asked us: "What is this startling new  
day?" We replied: "It's the first day of peace."  
Then we all ran excitedly out into the open,  
hollering through the mountainous landscape  
and its paths, beckoning people from all around  
the world. We pestered the old man to let us  
have a festival, and asked for all the new season's  
fruits. We held strangers' hands and called out  
across waterfalls. People came from all over the  
globe; it was the beginning of a peaceful new  
era. Earlier generations appeared on the horizon,  
walking tall and proud.

*By Masizi Kunene*

#### QUESTIONS.

1. Place the poem in its historic context (3 marks)

2. Discuss any four themes addressed by the poet (12 marks)
3. Examine the poetic styles employed by the poet (5 marks)