



# Tutorial Letter 101/3/2018

**Colonial and Postcolonial African  
Literatures**

**ENG2603**

**Semesters 1 and 2**

**Department of English Studies**

This tutorial letter contains important information  
about your module.

BARCODE

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Dear Student

## 1 INTRODUCTION

We are delighted to welcome you to this module. We hope it will start you on a long and fulfilling relationship with African literature. We have selected books by well-known writers from South Africa, Zimbabwe and the United States of America. You are required to study all of them, because we are sure that you will benefit from these texts' various perspectives.

The topics we have chosen to highlight include identity, and the importance of encounters. In your readings of these texts, you will realise these themes concern an individual's maturation or deterioration, and how each is impacted upon by his/her community. It is important that you suggest other topics, or critique aspects of this course.

NB. You are required to familiarise yourself with all the chapters of the ENG2603 Study Guide. Examination and Assignment Questions will be drawn from the Guide's treatment of the prescribed texts' key themes. It is also vital that you work through the activities in the prescribed texts.

What study material do we supply?

- Tutorial Letter 101 (this document): it contains your scheme of work, resources, assignments and other useful material. Please consult *Study @ Unisa* for advice on how to study as an ODL student.
- The Study Guide.
- Feedback tutorial letters.

It is possible that, upon registering for this module, some of its basic tuition material will be unavailable. If and when this turns out to be the case, please download the outstanding material from *myUnisa*.

### ***myUnisa***

NB.

You must be registered to be able to submit assignments, gain access to the Library functions and various learning resources, download study material, "chat" to your lecturers and fellow students about your studies and the challenges you may encounter, and participate in online discussion forums.

Do not forget that *myUnisa* provides you with additional opportunities to take part in activities and discussions of relevance to your module topics, assignments, marks and examinations.

## 2 PURPOSE AND OUTCOMES

### 2.1 Purpose

This module builds on the first-level English modules and can only be taken after you have passed the modules, 'Foundations in English Literary Studies' (ENG1501) and 'Foundations in English Language Studies' (ENG1502).

Over the course of this module, we want you to remember that the concept “African literature” is itself loaded. However, this paragraph is not the space to expand on this assertion which is about how Africa was constructed. You should consider this module as merely an Introduction. Since this is a second-level module, you are expected to make meaning and establish your own views. You can do this by investigating the multiple connections between what is “Colonial” and what is “Postcolonial” in the texts. Furthermore, you will be required to question the very thinking behind the chronology suggested in the terms “Colonial and Postcolonial”. Our aim is to motivate you to read the texts we have selected with an open mind. We have set four critical outcomes that we believe you should be able to achieve by the end of reading this module.

## **2.2 Outcomes**

### **Outcome 1**

Students critically read a wide range of texts in different genres (fiction, auto/biography, poetry and drama) with comprehension and critical engagement at this intermediate level.

### **Outcome 2**

Students write well-structured paragraphs and essays that critically discuss the creative choices made by writers of the chosen texts. Your essay should contain an introduction that outlines what you want to argue and how you want to organise your ideas.

### **Outcome 3**

Students explain how the politics of representation shapes literary texts and their reception in postcolonial contexts. Students are encouraged to think beyond the intended meanings of the text. As developing critics, students are also expected to come up with new meanings of texts that relate to students’ lived experiences.

### **Outcome 4**

Students can employ the key concepts and debates in postcolonial literary theory. In order to answer the assignment questions and examination questions insightfully, students must demonstrate that they have understood concepts in particular contexts. This often means mastering the critical vocabulary of the module and using these words to explain the complexity of the texts.

## **3 LECTURER(S) AND CONTACT DETAILS**

### **3.1 Lecturer(s)**

If you have any queries about the module, you are free to contact any of the lecturers listed below. We look forward to talking to you and, where possible, meeting you during the course of the year. If you live in or near Pretoria, you are welcome to arrange a personal interview with any of the lecturers listed below. Please make appointments in advance.

The lecturers responsible for this module are as follows:

Name:	Prof. L. Rafapa
E-mail address:	rafaplj@unisa.ac.za
Telephone number:	012 429-4834

Name: Prof. M. Vambe  
E-mail address: vambemt@unisa.ac.za

Name: Prof. F Kalua  
E-mail address: kaluafa@unisa.ac.za  
Telephone number: 012 429-6356

Name: Dr M. Lento  
E-mail address: lentomj@unisa.ac.za  
Telephone number: 012 429-6288

The English Level 2 co-ordinator:

Name: Prof. S. Maithufi  
E-mail address: maiths@unisa.ac.za  
Telephone number: 012 429-6140

### 3.2 Department

#### **The Chair of English Studies : Prof M Lephala**

The PA to CoD : Ms G Moeng  
Telephone : (012) 429-6714  
Email : moengg@unisa.ac.za

#### **The Administrative Officer for Level 2 English: Ms D. Rakumakoe**

Email: rakumld@unisa.ac.za  
Tel. (012) 429 6263

### 3.3 University

If you need to contact the University about matters not related to the content of this module, please consult the publication, *Study @ Unisa*, which you can download from the Unisa website. This booklet contains information on how to contact the University (e.g. to whom you can write for different queries, important telephone numbers, addresses and details of the times certain facilities are open).

Always have your student number at hand when you contact the University.

All study-related information is now available on the new Unisa corporate website in both web and mobile formats.





Unisa website (<http://www.unisa.ac.za> & <http://mobi.unisa.ac.za>)  
*myUnisa* (<https://my.unisa.ac.za/portal> & <https://my.unisa.ac.za/portal/pda>)

Students can access their own information via the *myUnisa* website or mobile site.

## 4 RESOURCES

### 4.1 Prescribed books

#### (BUY ALL BOOKS)

-  Chapman, Michael. (ed.) 2002. *The New Century of South African Poetry*. Johannesburg & Cape Town: AD. Donker Publishers.
-  Dangarembga, Tsitsi. 1988. *Nervous Conditions*. London: Ayeibia Press.
-  Khumalo, Fred. 2007. *Seven Steps to Heaven*. Auckland Park: Jacana.
-  Hansberry, Lorraine. 1958. *A Raisin in the Sun*. London: Bloomsbury Publishing.

### 4.2 Recommended books

Recommended books are online. Check the *myUnisa* website for details.

### 4.3 Electronic reserves (e-reserves)

There are e-reserves for this module online. Check the *myUnisa* website for details.

We welcome your comments on the texts in this course, as well as contributions of texts you think might be worth future students' attention. Other feedback on the module itself is, of course, also much appreciated.

Additional resources: please be informed that most regional UNISA offices offer Academic Literacy Services, where tutors can provide assistance for your reading and writing skills. Please check the UNISA Regional centres website for more information.

### 4.4 Library services and resources information

For brief information, go to [www.unisa.ac.za/brochures/studies](http://www.unisa.ac.za/brochures/studies).

For detailed information, go to <http://www.unisa.ac.za/library>. For research support and services of personal librarians, click on "Research support".

The library has compiled a number of library guides:

- finding recommended reading in the print collection and e-reserves – <http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/request/undergrad>
- requesting material – <http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/request/request>
- postgraduate information services – <http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/request/postgrad>
- finding, obtaining and using library resources and tools to assist in doing research – [http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/Research\\_Skills](http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/Research_Skills)
- how to contact the library/finding us on social media/frequently asked questions – <http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/ask>

## 5 STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

For information on the various student support systems and services available at Unisa (e.g. student counselling, tutorial classes, language support), please consult the publication: *Study @ Unisa* available on the Unisa website.

### Contact with fellow students

#### Study groups

It is advisable to have contact with fellow students. One way to do this is to form study groups. The addresses of students in your area may be obtained from the following department:

Directorate: Student Admissions and Registration  
PO Box 392  
UNISA  
0003

#### *myUnisa*

If you have access to the Internet, quickly access resources and information. The *myUnisa* learning management system is Unisa's online campus that will help you to communicate with your lecturers, with other students and with the administrative departments of Unisa – all through the computer and the Internet. Vital information will be posted on *myUnisa*. So, please visit the website regularly to ensure that you do not miss valuable information.

To go to the *myUnisa* website, start at the main Unisa website, <http://www.unisa.ac.za>, and then click on the 'Login to *myUnisa*' link on the right-hand side of the screen. This should take you to the *myUnisa* website. You can also reach the website directly by typing in <http://my.unisa.ac.za>. *myUnisa* resources.

Check the *myUnisa* site and look under 'Resources'.

### DOWNLOADING TUTORIAL LETTERS FROM *myUnisa*

All the Tutorial Letters are uploaded on to *myUnisa*. You can therefore access this material yourself. Refer to *myUnisa* on a regular basis and keep up-to-date.

Please consult *Study @ Unisa*, for more information on *myUnisa*.

### APPOINTMENT OF E-TUTORS

Please be informed that since 2013, Unisa has been offering online tutorials (e-tutoring) to students registered for modules at NQF levels 5 and 6, i.e. qualifying first year and second year modules, respectively. Please log on to *myUnisa* to find out if any of the modules that you are registered for falls in this category.

Having registered for a qualifying module, you will be allocated to a group of students and an e-tutor who will be your tutorial facilitator. E-Tutors for first year modules have each been allocated 500 students and those for second year modules 1000 students. An sms will be sent to you informing you about your group, the name of your e-tutor and instructions on how to log onto *myUnisa* in order to receive further information on the e-tutoring process.

E-tutoring takes place on *myUnisa* where you are expected to connect with students in your allocated group. You will need a computer with internet connection in order to participate in e-tutoring discussions and other activities. If you live close to a Unisa regional Centre or a Telecentre contracted with Unisa, please feel free to visit any of these in order to access the internet.

E-tutors are qualified to teach their respective modules and they are expected to guide you through your study material during this interaction. In order to get the most out of e-tutoring, it is important that you participate in the online discussions that the e-tutor will be facilitating

There are modules which students have failed repeatedly. Such modules are allocated face-to-face tutors and tutorials for these modules take place at the Unisa Regional Centres. It is necessary for you to register at your nearest centre, so as to secure attendance of these classes.

Be it online or face-to-face, tutoring is offered free of charge.

## **6 STUDY PLAN**

Use the *Study @ Unisa* brochure for general time management and planning skills.

Before you start working on your assignments, please read the section below very carefully.

How to start answering the question

The first step to take when you start working on an assignment (or examination) question is to read the question several times, including the extract from the text, if one is provided. In the course of such repeated reading, you will be able to decide what exactly it is you need to focus on when you write the essay or answer the question. The given passage is not just a summary of the text; the question will ask you to show clearly and in detail how the passage functions in conveying the main ideas of the text. It is therefore a good idea, in your third or fourth reading of the passage, to annotate the passage by underlining, circling, connecting up with arrows or indicating in whatever way suits you, what elements in the passage are relevant to the question. It is also a good idea to consult your novel, play and poems, and find out where exactly this extract fits into the text of the novel, play or poem as a whole. For example, what comes immediately before it, and what immediately after? It is likely that you will be able to incorporate this information usefully into your argument. One very important thing you should keep in mind at all times – avoid at all costs simply retelling the story.

Your essay should be a sustained argument of the question and not simply a summary of the plot.



## Writing the essay

Your answer to the assignment must be in the form of an essay, which means that you must not use subtitles, subsections or bullets, or write down a set of different, unlinked comments.

A formal academic essay for a literary English module is a unitary piece of prose without subsections, but structured so as to contain an introduction, a “body”, or middle section containing your answer to the question, and a conclusion (though these must not have headings). In the introduction, you briefly state what the main point is that you are going to make, then you develop the argument in the body, and in the conclusion, you briefly restate your contention. The body of the essay should be made up of a series of linked paragraphs that follow each other in logical order, and within each paragraph each sentence should logically lead on to the next.

In order to enable you to write a competent essay in response to an assignment question, it is essential to draw up a rough plan for your essay, write a draft, and then edit it so that the argument flows smoothly and every sentence can be easily read and understood. The next step is to proofread your essay. In this final stage, you correct the structure of your argument, the language, spelling and punctuation.

## An important typographical point

Remember that you should indicate references to the text itself by typing its title in italics, e.g. *Seven Steps to Heaven* or *A Raisin in the Sun* (or, if you are writing by hand, by underlining the title). If, in the case of the novel, *Mhudi*, you are referring to the character, Mhudi, you indicate it typographically by neither underlining (in handwriting), nor italicizing (in typescript). By adhering to this typographical convention, you will be able to avoid ambiguity and possible confusion, and will be writing correctly.

Please go through this checklist before submitting your assignments:

Make sure you have:

- Focussed on key instructions.
- Avoided simply providing a summary or paraphrase of the plot.
- Provided clear and well-expressed introductory and concluding paragraphs.
- Presented a clear, well-reasoned and well-supported argument.
- Referenced correctly and completely.
- Provided a list of references (a bibliography).
- Spelled character and place names correctly and consistently.
- Checked carefully to eradicate spelling errors.
- Checked for tense and agreement (concord) errors.
- Used the correct prepositions.
- Used the correct linguistic register.
- Included your declaration on plagiarism.

## 7 PRACTICAL WORK AND WORK-INTEGRATED LEARNING

There are no practical examinations for this module.

## 8 ASSESSMENT

**YOU MUST SUBMIT ASSIGNMENT 01 BY THE DUE DATE. THIS OBLIGATION IS A GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENT SO THAT THE UNIVERSITY CAN PROVE THAT YOU ARE AN 'ACTIVE' STUDENT.**

### 8.1 Assessment criteria

#### Assignments and learning

There are two compulsory assignments for this module. The points which follow are intended to explain some of our thoughts and planning about the work we have set.

#### Our assessment policy

We have set the assignments in order to allow you, the student, to show what you have learnt from studying this module. We would like you to use them as an opportunity to explore interesting issues in relation to your prescribed works and to practise your academic writing skills. The teaching team sees assignments as:

- An opportunity for students to focus their attention on the work of one or several writers, exploring ways in which the texts raise particular issues and express specific views;
- An occasion for students to communicate what they think and have learnt in relation to the module and the prescribed books;
- A chance for students to respond thoughtfully to the texts and issues studied;
- An integral part of the teaching and learning involved in this module.

#### Our marking policy

We will be looking for the following things (among others) when we mark assignments:

- Clear expression in English.
- The ability to write grammatically correct sentences and paragraphs in an appropriate register.
- The ability to follow instructions.
- Evidence that you have worked through the texts related to the assignment.
- Evidence of a thoughtful engagement with the concepts and issues raised in the module.
- The careful substantiation of points.
- Clear, well-structured and logical arguments.

From the points detailed above, you will realise that we are interested in the quality of your thoughts and work. You are free to use any resources that may be available to you, as long as you duly acknowledged them in the main body of your essay and in the bibliography. Work that

is plagiarised (copied) will not receive any credit. On the other hand, we will reward work that shows signs of honest effort, careful preparation and a commitment to learning.

PLEASE NOTE: For enquiries about assignments, (e.g. whether or not the University has received your assignment or the date on which an assignment was returned to you), please see section *Study @ Unisa* brochure. You will also find information on *myUnisa*.

### Commentaries and feedback on assignments

You will receive constructive comments on your assignments. As soon as you have received the comments, please read them in relation to your answers. The assignments and the comments on these assignments constitute an important part of your learning and should help you to be better prepared for the next assignment and for the examination. It is equally important to spend time going through your Tutorial Letter 101, as well as the Feedback Letters that are sent after each assignment. Reading the two documents is paramount to your gradual and progressive education in Literary Studies.

## 8.2 Assessment plan

**There are two assignments for this module and one examination. Each assignment will contribute 50 % towards the year mark. The year mark (consisting of the 2 assignment marks) counts as 25% of the final mark, while the remaining 75% will reflect your performance in the examination.**

## 8.3 Assignment numbers

### 8.3.1 General assignment numbers

Assignments are numbered consecutively per module, starting from 01, 02 and so on. There are two assignments for this module, Assignment 01 and Assignment 02. Assignments must be submitted in good time to reach the Assignment Division on or before the due date. If you prefer to submit online, it is your responsibility to make sure that your assignment is uploaded in good time. Do not wait for the last date or cut-off date!

### 8.3.2 Unique assignment numbers

SEMESTER	ASSIGNMENT NO.	UNIQUE ASSIGNMENT NUMBER
1	01	728899
1	02	809359
2	01	810932
2	02	840400

## 8.4 Assignment due dates

SEMESTER	ASSIGNMENT NO.	DUE DATE	myUnisa will open
1	01	22 March 2018	9 March 2018
1	02	17 April 2018	2 April 2018
2	01	23 August 2018	8 August 2018
2	02	28 September 2018	3 September 2018

## 8.5 Submission of assignments

You may submit written assignments either by post or electronically via *myUnisa*. **Assignments may not be faxed or sent by e-mail.** For detailed information and requirements as far as assignments are concerned, see the brochure, *Study @ Unisa*. Should you prefer to submit hard copy assignments, use the self-addressed Unisa assignment envelope. Always keep a copy of your assignment.

To submit an assignment via *myUnisa*:

- Go to *myUnisa*.
- Log in with your student number and password.
- Select the module.
- Click on assignments in the left-hand menu.
- Click on the assignment number you want to submit.
- Follow the instructions on the screen.

### General remarks

For general information and requirements relating to assignments, see the brochure, *Study @ Unisa*.

- Provide all the information required on the cover sheet supplied to you by the University and check for correctness. If the information is incorrect, the result may be a long delay before your assignment is marked and returned to you.
- It is crucial that you write the correct module code and assignment number on the cover sheet. Remember, your assignment must have the same number as the one specified in the assignment topic.
- Once an assignment has been marked, you cannot submit it to us again for remarking. If you would like further comment or advice on your own answer, once you have carefully read the follow-up tutorial letter on the particular assignment, you may make an appointment to see the tutor concerned, or write to him or her. Remember to bring or send along a copy of the assignment.
- If you type your assignment on your computer, please consult the brochure *Study @ Unisa* for the requirements regarding the format and paper to be used for assignments.
- Students are allowed to communicate with the UNISA staff only through the mylife email account.

## 8.6 The assignments

**SEMESTER 1 ASSIGNMENT 01**

**ASSIGNMENT 01**

*The New Century of South African Poetry* edited by Michael Chapman

OR

*Nervous Conditions* by Tsitsi Dangarembga

**DUE DATE: 22 MARCH 2018**

**UNIQUE NUMBER: 728899**

- Carefully study B.W. Vilakazi's poem, 'Nightfall', and then comment on how the poet's imagery helps him to introduce the exploitation of black labourers.

**TOTAL: 100**

OR

- There are many instances throughout the novel where Tambu expresses her anger or dismay at her situation and that of the women close to her. The most striking, perhaps, are reflected in her words right at the beginning of the novel: 'I was not sorry when my brother died' (1), which appear heartless and callous, and yet articulate all her pent-up emotion and her essential dilemma.

Write an essay in which you explore the kinds of dilemmas in which women find themselves in the novel.

**TOTAL: 100**

## SEMESTER 1 ASSIGNMENT 02

### ASSIGNMENT 02

*A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry

OR

*Seven Steps to Heaven* by Fred Khumalo

**DUE DATE: 17 APRIL 2018**

**UNIQUE NUMBER: 809359**

1. Lorraine Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun*

Using the characters of Walter Younger, Beneatha, Ruth and Lena Younger, write an essay in which you discuss how the payment of the insurance money reveals underlying tensions amongst these family members.

**TOTAL: 100**

OR

2. Fred Khumalo, *Seven Steps to Heaven*

Using Patrick's speech below from *Seven Steps to Heaven* as a point of departure, discuss whether or not he undermines racial stereotyping. In your discussion, show how the rest of the novel expands on this theme.

'That's a dangerous approach. You see, me the darkies don't like me because I get on well with the black dolls. The hankies don't like me either 'cos they say I am letting them down, trying to be black, always voting with the black students in the SRC meetings. Me I go hip-hop when my white brothers are getting high and puking and smashing each other with baseball bats at their rowdy rock sessions.'

**TOTAL: 100**

## SEMESTER 2 ASSIGNMENT 01

### ASSIGNMENT 01

*The New Century of South African Poetry* edited by Michael Chapman

OR

*Nervous Conditions* by Tsitsi Dangarembga

**DUE DATE: 23 AUGUST 2018**

**UNIQUE NUMBER: 810932**

1. Carefully study Dennis Brutus's poem, 'Letter to Martha', and then write an essay in which you discuss the metaphor of containment that he uses to describe the setting, and the images that he deploys to elaborate upon this metaphor.

**—TOTAL: 100**

OR

2. Early in her life, Tambu's mother says to her: 'This business of women is a heavy burden ... when there are sacrifices to be made, you are the one who has to make them'.

Write an essay in which you show how this comment applies to the novel.

**TOTAL: 100**

## SEMESTER 2 ASSIGNMENT 02

### ASSIGNMENT 02

*A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry

OR

*Seven Steps to Heaven* by Fred Khumalo

**DUE DATE: 18 SEPTEMBER 2018**

**UNIQUE NUMBER: 840400**

1. Lorraine Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun*

In a carefully worded essay, discuss how 'racism' impacts upon the aspirations of the Youngers and affects their family unity.

**TOTAL: 100**

OR

2. Fred Khumalo, *Seven Steps to Heaven*

To what extent would you agree with the view that *Seven Steps to Heaven* minimizes the role that black women play in the realisation of a democratic South Africa?

**TOTAL: 100**

### 8.7 Other assessment methods

There are no other assessment methods for this module.

### 8.8 The examination

For general information and requirements as far as examinations are concerned, see the brochure *Study @ Unisa*.



## Examination admission

It is compulsory to submit **ASSIGNMENT 01** to be admitted to the examination. This applies to **BOTH SEMESTERS 1 and 2**. This obligation is a university requirement to prove that you are an 'active student'.

## HOW YOUR MARKS ARE CALCULATED FOR THIS MODULE

There are **two** assignments for this module and one examination.

**Each** assignment will count 50% towards your semester mark. This means that you should submit **both** assignments in order to ensure that your semester mark is as good as possible.

## IMPORTANT

If you submit only one assignment, the only mark you have obtained will be divided by two to reach the semester mark.

For example, if you obtain 64% for Assignment 01 and do not obtain a mark for Assignment 02, the semester mark will be calculated thus:

64% for assignment 01 + 0% for assignment 02 = 64%  
Semester mark = 32%

Note that the semester mark counts 25% towards your final total mark and the examination mark counts for 75%.

## Examination period

ENG2603 is a semester module. This means that you will write the examination in May/June 2018 if you are registered for the first semester, and in October/November 2018 if you are registered for the second semester. During the semester, the Examination Division will provide you with information regarding the examination in general, examination venues, final examination dates and examination times.

## Examination paper

The examination paper will consist of **FOUR** questions: a question on each of the four prescribed texts. You must answer **TWO** questions. In order to be sure that you are prepared for the examination, we strongly advise you to have studied all four prescribed texts.

## Previous examination papers

Previous examination papers will be available on the *myUnisa* website.

## Tutorial letter with information on the examination

To help you in your preparation for the examination, pre-examination advice will be included in the feedback letter for Assignment 01. This will explain the format of the examination paper and sets out clearly the material you have to study for examination purposes.

## **9 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

The *Study @ Unisa* brochure contains an A-Z guide of the most relevant study information.

## **10 SOURCES CONSULTED**

None.

## **11 IN CLOSING**

We hope that you will enjoy this module and we wish you success with your studies.

Best wishes,  
The ENG2603 Team

## **12 ADDENDUM**

Plagiarism declaration.

**DECLARATION REGARDING PLAGIARISM**

**NAME:** .....

**STUDENT NUMBER:** .....

**ASSIGNMENT TOPIC:** .....

**ASSIGNMENT NUMBER:** .....

**UNIQUE ASSIGNMENT NUMBER:** .....

I declare that this assignment is my own original work. Where secondary material has been used (either from a printed source or from the Internet), this has been carefully acknowledged and referenced in accordance with departmental requirements. I understand what plagiarism is and am aware of the department's policy in this regard. I have not allowed anyone else to borrow or copy my work

Signature: .....

Date: .....





**DECLARATION REGARDING PLAGIARISM**

**NAME:** .....

**STUDENT NUMBER:** .....

**ASSIGNMENT TOPIC:** .....

**ASSIGNMENT NUMBER:** .....

**UNIQUE ASSIGNMENT NUMBER:** .....

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Signature: .....

Date: .....

