



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY
University Examinations for 2019/2020 Academic Year
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES
FIRST YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)
BACHELOR OF ARTS

ALT 102: INTRODUCTION TO EAST AFRICAN ORAL LITERATURE

DATE: 8/12/2020

TIME: 8:30 – 10:30 AM

INSTRUCTIONS

This paper consists of FIVE questions

Answer question ONE and other TWO questions in this paper

SECTION A: (COMPULSORY)

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) Explain the distinguishing features of short formulaic forms and provide an example for each. (10 marks)
- b) Using ample illustrations from your community, examine the nature and function of oral literature in the East African region. (20 marks)

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

With the help of relevant examples, explain the qualities of a good story teller.

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

“Oral literature helps us to understand and interpret our history”. Using any legend from your community evaluate the validity of this statement.

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

Discuss FIVE common challenges a researcher in oral literature is likely to encounter when conducting field work in East Africa.

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

Using examples, examine how gender roles are played out in any genre of oral literature studied in this class.



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SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

SECOND YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

BACHELOR OF ARTS

ALT 202: SURVEY OF AFRICAN LITERATURE

DATE: 2/12/2020

TIME: 2:00 – 4:00 PM

INSTRUCTIONS

This paper consists of FIVE questions

Answer question ONE and other TWO questions in this paper

NB: Do NOT use the same text for different questions

SECTION A: (COMPULSORY)

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) Using examples to illustrate, attempt a definition of African literature. (10 marks)
- b) Compare how the aspect of corruption is brought out in Armah's *The Beautiful ones are not yet Born* and Achebe's *A Man of the People*. (20 marks)

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

Using ample illustrations from any text studied in this course, examine the role of comic relief in bringing out tragedy in African literature.

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

Examine ONE main theme common to *We Need New Names* and *Purple Hibiscus*.

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

Using TWO short stories from Alex La Guma's *A Walk in the Night*, discuss the twin problem of discrimination and violence in apartheid South Africa.

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

In reference to Abubakar's *Season of Crimson Blossoms*, evaluate the treatment of sex and sexuality in the context of women empowerment.



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DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

DECEMBER SESSION EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION

ALT 200: EAST AFRICAN PROSE

DATE: (SCHOOL BASED)

TIME:

INSTRUCTIONS

This paper consists of FIVE questions

Answer question ONE and other TWO questions in this paper

SECTION A: (COMPULSORY)

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) Briefly examine how oral literature has contributed to the growth of prose in East Africa. (10 marks)
- b) Using Ngugi's *The River Between*, examine the symbolic significance of the ridges in the context of Kenyan literature and that of East African at large. (20 marks)

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS

(ALL ANSWERS IN THIS SECTION SHOULD AT LEAST BE 2 PAGES LONG)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

Using examples from Mtobwa's *Dare salaam by Night*, examine the treatment of moral decay as an urban problem. (20 marks)

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

With reference to Macgoye's *Coming to Birth*, evaluate the social transformation of the main characters and how this aligns with the socio-political and economic growth of the country.

(20 marks)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

Discuss the socio-cultural conflict explored in *White Teeth* and how it impacts on the major characters.

(20 marks)

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

Using at least TWO short stories studied in this course, evaluate the features of the short story genre.

(20 marks)



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SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
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THIRD YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)
BACHELOR OF ARTS
ALT 303: THEORY & HISTORY OF LITERATURE

DATE: 13/11/2020

TIME: 8:30 – 10:30 AM

INSTRUCTIONS

This paper consists of **FIVE** questions

Answer question **ONE** and other **TWO** questions in this paper

QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) (30 MARKS)

- a) What is literary theory and how does it affect how we read literary texts. (10 marks)
- b) Describe the key features of feminism theory and illustrate how you can apply them to analyse *So Long a Letter*. (20 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

Attempt a reader response reading of either Wanner's novel *Men of South/London Cape Town Joburg* or Bessie Head's *Maru*.

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

Discuss the key tenets of Marxism and demonstrate how you can apply the same to the analysis of Ngugi's *Devil on the Cross* or Achebe's *A Man of the People*.

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

Examine the psychoanalytic aspects at play in *The Story of Anna P as Told by Herself*.

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

Using ANY text from those studied in this course, attempt a formalist interpretation of the text.



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DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

FOURTH YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

BACHELOR OF ARTS

ALT 402: DRAMA

DATE: 26/10/2020

TIME: 2:00 – 4:00 PM

INSTRUCTIONS

This paper consists of FIVE questions

Answer question ONE and other TWO questions in this paper

QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) (30 MARKS)

- Using an example of a morality play, explain the main focus of medieval drama. (10 marks)
- “The real hero of Greek tragedy is humanity itself”. Using examples from *Oedipus the King* by Sophocles, discuss the validity of this statement (20 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

With reference to ANY William Shakespeare’s play studied in this course, discuss the role of fate in the protagonist’s tragic fall.

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

Examine the theme of social justice as dramatized in Ibsen’s play *An Enemy of the People*.

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

With ample illustrations from *Lwanda Magere*, evaluate the aspects of African politics that the play deals with.

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

With reference to any play studied in this course, examine the role of drama as a tool for political empowerment.



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SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

DECEMBER SESSION EXAMINATION FOR

MASTER OF ARTS IN LITERATURE

ALT 503: THEORY OF LITERATURE

DATE: (SCHOOL BASED)

TIME:

INSTRUCTIONS

This paper consists of FIVE questions

Answer question ONE and other TWO questions in this paper

NB: Avoid replication of texts for different questions

SECTION A: (COMPULSORY)

QUESTION ONE (20 MARKS)

“Although *So Long a Letter* focuses on the construction and re-construction of Ramatoulaye's identity as an individual, her ruminations also encompass the collective identities of women both inside and outside her socio-cultural milieu”. Discuss this statement in relation to feminism.

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

“Individual and collective identities are constructed on the intersecting axes of race, class, gender and religion”. Using any TWO texts from those studied in class, examine the purpose of postcolonial theory in elucidating these elements as treated in African literature.

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

Attempt a Marxist interpretation of ANY work by Ngugi wa Thiong'o.

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

Using a text studied in this course and a theory of your choice (besides those examined in this paper) explain why theory is a critical tool in the interpretation of literary works.

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

“The form of the folktale has a great influence on the present form of the African novel”. Attempt a structuralist discussion of this statement using any text studied in this course.



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DECEMBER SESSION EXAMINATION FOR

MASTER OF ARTS IN LITERATURE

ALT 505: MODERN AFRICAN LITERATURE

DATE: (SCHOOL BASED)

TIME:

INSTRUCTIONS

This paper consists of FIVE questions

Answer question ONE and other TWO questions in this paper

SECTION A: (COMPULSORY)

QUESTION ONE (20 MARKS)

“Both *So Long a Letter* and *Season of Crimson Blossoms* dismantle social and religious constructs of women in Africa”. Discuss

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

Analyse how *We Need New Names* and *Behold the Dreamers* portrays the liberation of women in contemporary African literature.

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

Discuss the issues of betrayal and struggle for independence in African states as re-imagined by any one prominent African author of your choice.

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

Using any text from those studied in this course, examine how the socio-economic environment inspires creativity in African literature.

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

Using ample illustrations from texts studied in this course, describe the growth and nature of African literature.