



# MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations for 2019/2020 Academic Year

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

DECEMBER SESSION EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

BACHELOR OF ARTS

ALT 300: STYLISTICS AND LITERARY TECHNIQUES

DATE: SCHOOL BASED

TIME:

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## INSTRUCTIONS

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

### SECTION A: (COMPULSORY)

#### QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) Using appropriate examples and diagram(s), define stylistics. (6 marks)
- b) In each of the sentences given below, underline the stated segment in your answer booklet:
- i) The predicate (2 marks)  
**An ancient craft that has been almost completely forgotten in the West is basket making.**
- ii) The adjunct (2 marks)  
**She readily loaned me the money.**
- iii) The compliment (2 marks)  
**I don't need drugs to make my life tragic.**
- c) Read Leo Tolstoy's short story "The Death of Ivan Illych" and place the **loose sentence** below in context as you discuss the sentence's effectiveness:  
"He wept on account of his helplessness, his terrible loneliness, the cruelty of man, the cruelty of God, and the absence of God." (9 marks)

- d) Read Martin Luther King jnr.'s 'Letter from Birmingham Jail' and place the **periodic sentence** below in context as you analyse the sentence's effectiveness:

'But when you have seen vicious mobs lynch your mothers and fathers at will and drown your sisters and brothers at whim; when you have seen hate-filled policemen curse, kick, brutalize, and even kill your black brothers and sisters with impunity; when you see the vast majority of your twenty million Negro brothers smothering in an airtight cage of poverty in the midst of an affluent society; when you suddenly find your tongue twisted and your speech stammering as you seek to explain to your six-year-old daughter why she cannot go to the public amusement park that has just been advertised on television, and see tears welling up in her little eyes when she is told that Funtown is closed to colored children, and see the depressing clouds of inferiority begin to form in her little mental sky, and see her begin to distort her little personality by unconsciously developing a bitterness toward white people; when you have to concoct an answer for a five-year-old son asking in agonizing pathos, "Daddy, why do white people treat colored people so mean?"; when you take a cross-country drive and find it necessary to sleep night after night in the uncomfortable corners of your automobile because no motel will accept you; when you are humiliated day in and day out by nagging signs reading "white" and "colored"; when your first name becomes "nigger" and your middle name becomes "boy" (however old you are) and your last name becomes "John," and when your wife and mother are never given the respected title "Mrs."; when you are harried by day and haunted by night by the fact that you are a Negro, living constantly at tiptoe stance, never knowing what to expect next, and plagued with inner fears and outer resentments; when you are forever fighting a degenerating sense of "nobodiness" -- then you will understand why we find it difficult to wait.'

(9 marks)

## **SECTION B: ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS**

### **QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)**

Analyse Charles Dickens' opening paragraph to his novel *A Tale of Two Cities*:

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way - in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.

**QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)**

Engage with the idea of foregrounding in literature at its various levels of morphology, syntax, semantics, graphology, etc.

**QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)**

Engage with criticisms against stylistics

**QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)**

Showing literary techniques used, engage in a stylistic analysis of Claude McKay's poem below:

**I Shall Return**

I shall return again; I shall return  
To laugh and love and watch with wonder-eyes  
At golden noon the forest fires burn,  
Wafting their blue-black smoke to sapphire skies.  
I shall return to loiter by the streams  
That bathe the brown blades of the bending grasses,  
And realize once more my thousand dreams  
Of waters rushing down the mountain passes.  
I shall return to hear the fiddle and fife  
Of village dances, dear delicious tunes  
That stir the hidden depths of native life,  
Stray melodies of dim remembered tunes.  
I shall return, I shall return again,  
To ease my mind of long, long years of pain.