



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations for 2019/2020 Academic Year

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

SECOND YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR

DIPLOMA IN EDUCATION (ARTS)

ALT 0203: AFRICAN LITERATURE: POETRY AND DRAMA FROM EAST, WEST AND SOUTH AFRICA

DATE: 27/10/2020

TIME: 2:00 – 4:00 PM

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer Question One (Compulsory) and Any Other Two Questions

QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) (30 MARKS)

- a) Define the following terms. (8 marks)
- i) Themes
 - ii) Literary devices
 - iii) Plot
 - iv) Synopsis
- b) Using specific examples, differentiate between the following (9 marks)
- i) Comedy and tragedy
 - ii) Protagonist and antagonist
 - iii) Sonnet and epic poetry
- c) Using specific examples, discuss any **FOUR** classes of oral poetry exposing the distinct features of each. (13 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

Drawing illustrations from Francis Imbuga's *Betrayal in the City* and Imbuga's *Aminata* evaluate **FIVE** major thematic concerns raised by post- independence African playwrights. Relate this to the society today.

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

Using **any three** poems of your choice examine issues addressed by anti-colonial poetry. Give a brief summary of the content in each poem.

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

‘Athol Fugard’s *The Blood Knot* explores the adverse effects of apartheid.’ Evaluate the truthfulness of this statement with adequate illustrations from the text.

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow

The Weaver Bird - KOFI AWOONOR

The weaver bird built in our house
And laid its eggs on our only tree
We did not want to send it away
We watched the building of the nest
And supervised the egg laying.
And the weaver returned in the guise of the owner
Preaching salvation to us that owned the house
They say it came from the west
Where the storms at sea had felled the gulls
And the fishers dried their nets by lantern light
Its sermon is the divination of ourselves
And our new horizons limit at its nest
But we cannot join the prayers and the answers of the communicants.
We look for new homes every day,
For new altars we strive to rebuild
The old shrines defiled from the weaver’s excrement.

- a) Describe the subject of this poem. (4 marks)
- b) Identify and explain any three stylistic features used in the poem. (6 marks)
- c) Identify and describe the poet’s attitude towards the weaver bird. Give illustrations for your answer. (3 marks)
- d) What things did the ‘we’ of the poem lose to the weaver bird? (4 marks)
- e) With specific illustrations from the poem, explain the role of the ‘We’ in what happens in the poem. (3 marks)