



# MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations 2020/2021

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION FOR DEGREE IN

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS) / BA ARTS

ALT 101: INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY GENRES

Date:

Time:

---

## INSTRUCTIONS

*This paper consists of FIVE questions*

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

---

1. a) Describe the defining elements of drama with reference to any play you have read for this course. (15 marks)
- b) Attempt an analysis of the following poem putting into consideration its form and content. (15 marks)

### **I Know why the Caged Bird Sings: Maya Angelou**

The free bird leaps  
On the back of the wind  
And floats downstream  
Till the current ends  
And dips his wings  
In the orange sun rays  
And dares to claim the sky  
But a bird that stalks,  
Down his narrow cage  
Can seldom see through  
His bars of rage  
His wings are clipped  
And his feet are tied  
So he opens his throat to sing

The caged bird sings  
With fearful trill  
Of the things unknown

But are longed for still  
And his tune is heard  
On the distant hill  
For the caged bird  
The free bird thinks of another breeze  
An the trade winds soft through the sighing trees  
And the fat worms waiting on a dawn-bright lawn  
And he names the sky his own...

#### Section B

2. Using *Terrorists of the Aberdare* to illustrate, discuss FOUR significant terrors explored in the novella to demonstrate the conflict between humans and nature. (20 marks)
3. Discuss FOUR elements of a tragic play using examples from *King Oedipus*. (20 marks)
4. While referring to ANY TWO short stories you have read, compare to and with the portrayal of the protagonists. (20 marks)
5. “Chinua Achebe’s novel *Things Fall Apart* is considered an African classic”. Examine any ONE theme that has stood out for you in this text. (20 marks)