



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations 2020/2021

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR DEGREE IN BACHELOR OF EDUCATION
(ARTS) AND BACHELOR OF ARTS

ALT401: AFRICAN LITERATURE

Date:

Time:

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)

1. a) Which has been your favourite text in this course and why? (10 Marks)
b) Discuss FOUR key factors that you would consider when defining African literature. (20 marks)

Section B

2. “Violence, disillusionment and resentment are common themes in South African Literature.” Using any TWO texts studied in this course, explain how the characters in the chosen texts depict these themes. (20marks)
3. Using Ayi Kwei Armah’s *The Beautiful ones are not yet Born*, illustrate the role of women in the fight against corruption in the continent. (20marks)
4. Using any TWO texts in African literature, evaluate FOUR language choices made by the authors to enhance meaning in the stories. (20marks)
5. Using Elechi Amadi’s *The Concubine* and any novel by Zukiswa Wanner, compare the treatment of women by the two writers. (20 Marks)



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DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR DEGREE IN BACHELOR OF ARTS

ALT305: THE AFRICAN AMERICAN NOVEL

Date:

Time:

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)

1. a) Which aspects of this course have been significant to you and why? (10 Marks)
b) Explain the way(s) in which slave narratives changed perceptions about slavery and Blacks in general (20 marks)

Section B

2. In reference to Toni Morrison and Alice Walker, discuss how African American women have dealt with the themes of gender, race and class in their texts. (20marks)
3. Using examples from authors studied in this course, examine the significance of the Harlem renaissance in the growth of African American literature. (20marks)
4. Using any artist of your choice, musician or writer, discuss the artist's style and how this has shaped their work. (20marks)
5. Referring to any text studied in this course, evaluate the nature of characterisation common to the contemporary African American novel. (20 Marks)



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DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR DEGREE IN BACHELOR OF EDUCATION
(ARTS) AND BACHELOR OF ARTS

ALT 200: EAST AFRICAN PROSE FICTION

Date:

Time:

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

1. Discuss the following in respect to East African Prose Fiction:
 - a. The growth of the East African literary tradition (15 Marks)
 - b. Two Key socio-political issues that have preoccupied prose fiction writers in East Africa (15 Marks)
2. With reference to Meja Mwangi's *The Cockroach Dance* and Ben Mtobwa's *Dar es Salam Usiku*, analyse the portrayal of urbanisation in East African prose fiction. (20 Marks)
3. Examine **any Four** oral literary techniques employed in Ngugi wa Thiong'o's *Wizard of the Crow*. (20 Marks)
4. "Okot p'Bitek's *White Teeth* is a critique of culture," Discuss. (20 Marks)
5. Discuss how history is employed in Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye's *Coming to Birth*. (20 Marks)



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DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR DEGREE IN BACHELOR OF EDUCATION
(ARTS) AND BACHELOR OF ARTS

ALT 400: LITERARY AESTHETICS

Date:

Time:

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

1. Discuss the following concepts as used in literary aesthetics (30 Marks)
 - i. Conformism
 - ii. Pleasure
 - iii. Pragmatism
 - iv. Historical necessity
 - v. Truth
 - vi. Beauty
2. Using relevant examples from texts studied in this course, analyze any four key principles of Literature according to Horatus T. Laccus (20 Marks)
3. Discuss the major thrust of arguments of Aristotle on poetry (20 Marks)

4. Using relevant examples from Zola's *Le roman expérimental* and Hurston's *Their Eyes were Watching God* and Fyodor Dostoyevsky's *Crime and Punishment*, examine the relationship between literature and morality. (20 Marks)
5. With relevant examples, discuss the value of literary aesthetics in African Literature (20 Marks)



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FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR DEGREE IN BACHELOR OF EDUCATION
(ARTS) AND BACHELOR OF ARTS

ALT301: THEORY AND METHODS IN ORAL LITERATURE

Date:

Time:

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

1. Briefly explain the following:
 - a. The growth of theory in literary criticism. (10 Marks)
 - b. The relevance of theory in the study of oral literature. (10 Marks)
 - c. The socio-cultural forces that give rise to oral creativity (10 Marks)
2. With appropriate examples, discuss how performance theory is used in Oral Literature.
(20 Marks)
3. Using a theory of your choice, analyze an oral narrative from your community(20 Marks)
4. Discuss any five Key aspects you would consider when translating oral texts to other languages? (20 Marks)
5. Analyze any Five issues that govern the collection, collation and transcription of oral literature data from the field? (20 Marks)



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**FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR DEGREE IN BACHELOR OF EDUCATION
(ARTS) AND BACHELOR OF ARTS**

ALT201: EAST AFRICAN POETRY AND DRAMA

Date:

Time:

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer Question One and any other two

1. a) While commenting on their significance in society, explain the definitions of drama and poetry. (10 Marks)

b) Critically analyse the poems of Jared Angira and John S. Mbiti in *Poems from East Africa*. (20 Marks)
2. Discuss Any Two thematic concerns in Francis Imbuga's *Betrayal in the City* and *Man of Kafira*. (20 Marks)
3. Analyse Any Two stylistic devices used in Francis Imbuga's *Aminata* and *The Return of Mgofu*. (20 Marks)
4. While taking care to comment on its effectiveness, examine the uses of play within a play in John Ruganda's *The Burdens* and *Shreds of Tenderness*. (20 Marks)
5. Analyse John Ruganda's critique of Africa's situations in *Black Mamba*, *Echoes of Silence*, and *The Floods*. (20 Marks)



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DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

EXAMINATION FOR DEGREE IN BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

SCHOOL BASED EXAMINATION

ALT402: DRAMA

Date:

Time:

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer Question One and any other two.

1. a) In the *Poetics*, Aristotle defends drama as he responds to Plato's *The Republic*. Discuss. (15 Marks)
b) Analyse the relationship between African drama and Africa's histories. (15 Marks)
2. Discuss John Ruganda's political vision using any of his two plays. (20 Marks)
3. Compare the nature of characterisation in Francis Imbuga's *Betrayal in the City* and *Aminata*. (20 Marks)
4. With appropriate examples, analyse any four ways in which oral history shapes Wole Soyinka's dramas? (20 Marks)
5. Discuss how Athol Fugard's play *The Blood Knot* portrays South Africa's racial histories. (20 Marks)



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SCHOOL BASED EXAMINATION

ALT 400: LITERARY AESTHETICS

Date:

Time:

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer Question One and any other two.

1. a) Using relevant examples, demonstrate your understanding of literary aesthetics. (10 Marks)

b) Discuss the concept of mimesis as articulated by Plato and Aristotle. (20 Marks)
2. Using Jared Angira's poem "No Coffin, No Grave", demonstrate your understanding of literary language. (20 Marks)
3. Discuss the literary beauty, if any, in Taban lo Liyong's *Words That Melt a Mountain*. (20 Marks)
4. Explain the supervenient theory that proposes to read a literary work through aesthetic judgement. (20 Marks)
5. In what ways do Langston Hughes' poems portray the literary aesthetics of the Harlem Renaissance? (20 Marks)



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SCHOOL BASED EXAMINATION

ALT401: AFRICAN LITERATURE

Date:

Time:

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer Question One and any other two.

1. a) Analyse challenges one would face in attempting to define African literature. (10 Marks)

b) Chinua Achebe has been described as the founding father of modern African literature. Discuss. (20 Marks)
2. **Either**

Using the anthology *When the Bullets Begin to Flower*, demonstrate how poetry shapes histories of resistance. (20 Marks)

Or

Discuss Taban lo Liyong's exploration of multiculturalism in *Words That Melt a Mountain*. (20 Marks)
3. Using relevant examples, examine the language politics in African literature. (20 Marks)
4. With appropriate examples, discuss Ngugi wa Thiong'o's philosophy in respect to African identity and history. (20 Marks)
5. Examine how Lewis Nkosi engages with South African racial histories in *Mating Birds*. (20 Marks)



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DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

EXAMINATION FOR DEGREE IN BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

SCHOOL BASED EXAMINATION

ALT 208: LITERARY LANGUAGE AND PRESENTATION

Date:

Time:

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer Question One and any other two.

1. a) Define Literature. (3 mks)
b) Differentiate between connotative and denotative language. (4 mks)
c) What is personification? In what circumstances is it usually used? (3 mks)
d) Engage with the figurative language used in Robert Frost's poem "The Road Not Taken" (overleaf). (20 mks)
2. Analyse uses of symbolism in Grace Ogot's short story "Tekayo." (20 mks)
3. How effectively does John S. Mbiti use Biblical allusion in his poem "The Crucified Thief" (overleaf)? (20 mks)
4. Analyse satire in Hama Tuma's short story "The Case of the Prison Monger" (20 mks)
5. In what ways is the story of Okonkwo in Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* the story of Africa?

The Road Not Taken

By Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveller, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference.

The Crucified Thief

By John S. Mbiti

I am a crucified thief,
Dying for my unnumbered sins;
Besides me dies the 'sinful' God
Who takes away the sin of the world.

His fingers freeze from cold,
His eyes are dark with desert dust,
His throat is coarse from thirst.
He suffers thus for me and you.

I am a crucified thief,
Stealing away the love of God,
I am crucified with Christ,
To be with Him in paradise.

The sun above for fear hides,
The earth beneath in pain shakes,
And buried souls awake to weep,
While angels bow and wink in tears.



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SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

EXAMINATION FOR DIPLOMA IN EDUCATION (ARTS)

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

Date:

Time:

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer Question One and any other two.

QUESTION ONE 30 MARKS (COMPULSORY)

- 1 a. Explain the following concepts as used in literature. (15 marks)
 - i. Fiction and non-fiction
 - ii. Oral forms and written forms
 - iii. Plot and sub-plot
 - iv. Figurative language
 - b. Using examples, explain any five characteristics of Literature (15 marks).
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2. With appropriate examples from texts studied in this course, discuss any two genres of drama. (20 marks)
 3. Discuss the features of poetry as a form of literary expression (20marks)
 4. Describe TWO types of short stories (20 marks)
 5. With close reference to TWO texts covered in this course, analyze the differences between Short Stories and Novels. (20 marks)



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DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

EXAMINATION FOR DIPLOMA IN EDUCATION (ARTS)

ALT 0201: READING & INTERPRETING LITERATURE

Date:

Time:

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer Question One and any other two.

1. (a) Using ample illustrations, distinguish between Critical Reading and Spread Reading in literature. (10mks)

(b) Explain how the following concepts apply in reading literature.

(i) Skimming

(ii) Scanning

(iii) Inference

(iv) Paraphrasing

(v) Annotation

(20mks)

2. "Without language there can never be literature" Discuss this statement with reference to TWO texts discussed in this course. (20marks)

3. With close reference to TWO texts discussed in this course, explain how symbolism and irony are used in the texts. (20 Marks)

4. Drawing your examples from any THREE texts covered in this course, discuss the nature and functions of Literature. (20 marks)

5. Using relevant examples, discuss how Lexical and Semantic levels of language are utilized in Literature. (20marks)



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SCHOOL BASED EXAMINATION

ALT 200: EAST AFRICAN PROSE FICTION

Date:

Time:

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer Question One and any other two.

1. Explain how the following contexts are utilized in East African prose (30 Marks)
 - a. Historical context
 - b. Socio-political context
 - c. Cultural context
2. Using appropriate examples, discuss the conflict between modernity and traditional African society as portrayed in East African prose fiction. (20 marks)
3. Discuss how Orality is deployed in Ngugi wa Thiong'o's *The Wizard of the Crow* and Okot P'Bitek's *White teeth*. (20 Marks)
4. With examples, analyze any five characteristics of East African short stories. (20 Marks)
5. Using a text of your choice, discuss gender relations in East African prose. (20 Marks)



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EXAMINATION FOR DEGREE IN BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

SCHOOL BASED EXAMINATION

ALT 303: THEORY AND HISTORY OF LITERATURE

Date:

Time:

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer Question One and any other two.

1. Discuss the following:
 - a. The history of literature from antiquity to the present (15 Marks)
 - b. The development of theory in Literature. (15 Marks)
2. Discuss a theory of your choice indicating the proponents and key tenets (20 Marks)
3. Using the post-colonial theory, discuss Ngugi wa Thiong'o's *A Grain of Wheat* (20 Marks)
4. Using the sociological literary theory, demonstrate how theory shapes interpretations in literature. (20 Marks)
5. "The reader response theory is problematic as it places importance on the reader as opposed to the text." With appropriate examples, discuss the validity of this statement. (20 Marks)



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EXAMINATION FOR DEGREE IN BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

SCHOOL BASED EXAMINATION

ALT 410: DRAMA IN EDUCATION

Date:

Time:

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer Question One and any other two.

1. Giving characteristics for each, define the following terms: (30 marks)
 - i. Drama
 - ii. Theatre
 - iii. Art
 - iv. Theatre in Education
 - v. Drama in Education
2. Using your own topic, describe how you would teach the topic using drama in education as method (20 marks)
3. “Drama in education is useful in making learning enjoyable” Discuss this statement. (20 marks)
4. Analyse ways in which drama in education has been utilized in the Kenyan educational system (20 marks)
5. With reference to John Ruganda’s *The Floods* and Joe De Graft’s *Muntu*, explain how you would teach themes in drama. (20 marks)



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SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS

THIRD YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF ARTS

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

REGULAR EXAMINATIONS

ALT 300: STYLISTICS AND LITERARY TECHNIQUES

Date:

Time:

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer Question One (Compulsory) and Any Other Two Questions

1. With appropriate examples, analyze how the following are used in study of Literary style:
 - i. Practical Criticism (10 Marks)
 - ii. Literary Criticism (10 Marks)
 - iii. Stylistic Criticism (10 Marks)
2. Using *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston, examine aspects of the stylistic toolkit that one has to keep in mind in stylistic analysis (20 marks)
3. Drawing your examples from Charles Dicken's *Great Expectations*, show how writers could easily conform to linguistic rules in their creative writings. (20 marks)
4. Present a contextual reading of Wole Soyinka's *Death and the King's Horseman* (20 marks)
5. Present a formalist stylistic analysis of Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things* (20 marks)



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SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS

FOURTH YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF ARTS

ALT 414: WOMEN IN LITERATURE

Date: _____

Time: _____

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer Question One (Compulsory) and Any Other Two Questions

1. a) Explain any two major concerns of women as expressed in Women Writings in Literature. (10 marks)
b) Examine two Key thematic concerns portrayed in *Season of Crimson Blossoms* by Abubakar Adam Ibrahim. (20 marks)
2. With appropriate examples, analyse aspects of African feminism utilized in Literature (20 marks)
3. Examine how Margaret Ogola creates Salient Women Character Archetypes in her novel *The River and the Source*. (20 marks)
4. Discuss the concept of gender across various epochs as portrayed in women writings in Literature (20 marks)
5. Taking care to comment on their effectiveness, analyse Two aspects of style utilized in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*. (20 marks)

