



**MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY**  
University Examinations for 2019/2020 Academic Year  
**SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES**  
**FOURTH YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR**  
**BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)**  
**BACHELOR OF ARTS**  
**ALT 400: LITERARY AESTHETICS**

**DATE: 11/12/2019**

**TIME: 8.30-10.30 AM**

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**INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER QUESTION ONE AND ANY OTHER TWO QUESTIONS**

**Answer Question one and any other two questions**

**QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)**

- a) Suggest a title to the poem below
- b) Analyse the poem focusing on techniques that contribute to its aesthetic beauty:

Deep, deep on the remote sea floor  
Lies a huge spring  
Whose pure water pours forth unceasingly,  
Broader, bluer than any lake,  
Flowing on with a gentle and wondrous music.  
This pure stream that has flowed  
Inexhaustibly since time began,  
If we can touch it, we can draw on its eternal power of life;  
If we can drink there,  
It will nourish in us unfettered powers of creativity.  
This spring that bursts forth  
From the depths of the cosmos,  
Flowing into the wide sea of life,  
This spring that is the mysterious source of the universe,

From its bottomless abyss  
Wells up the great sea of life,  
And the melody of history resounds there.  
That solemn and sacred music,  
Is it not the inner rhythm of humankind,  
The language spoken by all women and men?  
Can we not hear them,  
The clear notes of this sacred symphony  
That echo over the waves?  
Can we not see it,  
The pulsing rhythm that springs  
From the depths of the spirit,  
This profoundly deep, this unfathomable fountain of creation?  
*Daisaku Ikeda*

**QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)**

To what extent is Aristotelian theory of Literature in *Poetics* an appropriate defence of art and artists?

**QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)**

“Beauty of art is in the choice and order of words.” Discuss.

**QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)**

“Aesthetics is not about a nostalgic attachment to Africa’s idyllic past but a sober appreciation of beauty with its ugliness.” Discuss with reference to Negritude poetry.

**QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)**

Discuss any three of the following types of aesthetics explaining how they help to bring out beauty in works of art:

- a) Platonic aesthetics
- b) Marxist aesthetics
- c) Afrocentric aesthetics
- d) Kantian aesthetics