



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations for 2019/2020 Academic Year

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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*

Section A: (Compulsory)

1. a) Using examples from *King Oedipus*, explain the nature of tragic plays and how they differ from comedies. (15 marks)

- b) Examine key issues that the persona raises in the following poem. (15 marks)

Sometimes when I'm alone

I cry because I'm on my own

The tears I cry R bitter and warm

They flow with life but take no form

I cry because my heart is torn

and I find it difficult 2 carry on

If I had an ear 2 confide in

I would cry among my treasured friends

But who do u know that stops that long

To help another carry on

The world moves fast and it would rather pass u by

than 2 stop and c what makes u cry

It's painful and sad and sometimes I cry

and no one cares about why. (Tupac Shakur)

Section B:

2. Using any ONE short story studied in this unit, discuss characteristics of the short-story as a genre in literature. (20 marks)
3. In reference to either Macgoye's *Coming to Birth* or Mwangi's *Going Down River Road*, evaluate challenges of urbanisation. (20marks)
4. Discuss the symbolic significance of *Terrorists of the Aberdare* as a title in Ng'ang'a Mbugua's novella. (20marks)
5. Examine the central conflict in Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* and how it leads to Okonkwo's tragic fall. (20 marks)