



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations for 2021/2022 Academic Year

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

DECEMBER SESSION EXAMINATION FOR

MASTER OF ARTS IN LITERATURE

ALT503: THEORY OF LITERATURE

DATE: 17/12/2021

TIME: 9.00-12.00 PM

INSTRUCTIONS

This paper consists of FIVE questions

Answer question ONE and other TWO questions in this paper

NB: Avoid replication of texts for different questions

QUESTION ONE (20 MARKS)

African literature can variously be seen as an attempt to take back our literature from the West; a kind of talking back to the West about Africa. Discuss this statement in relation to postcolonial literary theory.

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

In literary theory, deconstruction has been met with the most vehement, severe and sometimes unfair and hostile criticism. Using any text from those studied in class, examine the salient issues in deconstructive criticism.

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

Using any text of your choice, evaluate the place of feminist literary theory in the interpretation of gender, sex and sexuality in literature.

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

The 'death of the author' is not, as it is so very often misinterpreted and decontextualized. The death of the author is about the creator's (the author's) absorption into the art itself — the death of the author is really about the birth of the reader. Attempt a reader response interpretation of Barrett's *Blackass* with this statement in mind.

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QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

Is classical literary theory relevant to the study of literature today? Justify your response with adequate illustrations from any TWO texts studied in this class.



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SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

FOURTH YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF ARTS

ALT 417: MAJOR LITERARY MOVEMENTS

DATE: 15/12/2021

TIME: 2.00-4.00 PM

INSTRUCTIONS

This paper consists of FIVE questions

Answer question ONE and other TWO questions in this paper

SECTION A (COMPULSORY)

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) Explain what you have enjoyed the most about this course and why. (10 marks)
- b) The Harlem renaissance is famed for the cultural, artistic, and social revival that exploded in New York City during the 1920's. With reference to any TWO authors from this era, discuss its significance to the study of literature. (20 marks)

SECTION B

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

Examine FOUR key lessons learnt from Jane Austen's novel *Pride and Prejudice*?

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

In existentialism, existential themes of individuality, consciousness, freedom, choice, and responsibility are explored. Evaluate how these issues are brought out in any one text of your choice

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

With reference to TWO writers, discuss the main features of modernism in literature.

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

Using Charles Dickens novel *Great Expectations*, discuss the expectations of the protagonist and how these reflect the yearnings of contemporary youth.



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SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

THIRD YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

BACHELOR OF ARTS

ALT 303: THEORY AND HISTORY LITERATURE

DATE: 15/12/2021

TIME: 2.00-4.00 PM

INSTRUCTIONS

This paper consists of FIVE questions

Answer question ONE and other TWO questions in this paper

SECTION A: (COMPULSORY)

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) What aspects of history and theory of literature have you enjoyed the most and why. (15 marks)
- b) Using your favourite theory from those studied in this class, attempt an analysis of the following poem: (15 marks)

Be Drunk

You have to be always drunk. That's all there is to it--it's the only way. So as not to feel the horrible burden of time that breaks your back and bends you to the earth, you have to be continually drunk.

But on what? Wine, poetry or virtue, as you wish. But be drunk.

And if sometimes, on the steps of a palace or the green grass of a ditch, in the mournful solitude of your room, you wake again, drunkenness already diminishing or gone, ask the wind, the wave, the star, the bird, the clock, everything that is flying, everything

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that is groaning, everything that is rolling, everything that is singing, everything that is speaking. . .ask what time it is and wind, wave, star, bird, clock will answer you: “It is time to be drunk! So as not to be the martyred slaves of time, be drunk, be continually drunk! On wine, on poetry or on virtue as you wish.”

Charles Baudelaire

SECTION B

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

Attempt a feminist literary interpretation of any of Zukiwa Wanner’s novels.

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

Post-colonial theory looks at issues of power, economics, politics, religion, and culture and how these elements work in relation to colonial hegemony. In reference to this statement, examine the key tenets of postcolonial theory and how you can apply the same in analysing Achebe’s *A Man of the People*.

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

Structuralism consists of contrasts and pairings related to the most basic binary polarities. In reference to any text studied in this class demonstrate your understanding of how structuralists analyse literature.

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

Using ANY text from those studied in this course, attempt an interpretation of the text in reference to psychoanalytic dimensions related to the characters’ personality, sexuality and issues of socialisation and how they shape the character’s behaviour and growth.



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SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

FIRST YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

BACHELOR OF ARTS

ALT 101: INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY GENRES

DATE: 3/2/2022

TIME: 2.00-4.00 PM

INSTRUCTIONS

This paper consists of FIVE questions

Answer question ONE and other TWO questions in this paper

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) Using examples for illustration, discuss the nature and function of literature. (10 marks)
- b) Using the skills for analysis of poetry learnt in class, attempt an analysis of the following poem: (20 marks)

They Ran Out of Mud by Miriam Were

There is a little hut
Built across from here
They've mudded two walls
And the rest stands unmade
For they ran out of mud
There is a deep gully
Running along the road
They have filled it halfway
And the rest is still gaping
For they ran out of mud
There is a pot y the alter
That they began to mould
They finished the base
But the neck remains undone
For they ran out of mud
Mud! Mud!
Who can find mud
Maybe if it were gold
Someone would

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QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

Using *Of Pawns and Players* to illustrate, discuss FOUR challenges affecting urban youth in contemporary Kenya.

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

Distinguish between tragic and comic plays using examples from texts studied in this class.

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

With reference to any text studied in this class, explain why literature is fundamental to the understanding of the politics of any nation.

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

Discuss the aspects of Chinua Achebe's novel *Things Fall Apart* that you consider most interesting.