



**MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY**  
University Examinations for 2020/2021 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 401: AFRICAN LITERATURE**

**DATE:**

**TIME:**

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**INSTRUCTIONS:**

**ANSWER QUESTION ONE FROM SECTION A AND ANY TWO QUESTIONS FROM SECTION B**

**NB: Do NOT use the same text for different questions**

**SECTION A: (COMPULSORY)**

**QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)**

- 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**

**QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)**

“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.

**QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)**

Using Ayi Kwei Armah’s *The Beautyful Ones are not yet Born*, illustrate the role of women in the fight against corruption in the continent.

**QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)**

Using any TWO texts in African literature, evaluate FOUR language choices made by the authors to enhance meaning in the stories.

**QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)**

Using Elechi Amadi's *The Concubine* and any novel by Zukiswa Wanner, compare the treatment of women by the two writers.



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DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

THIRD YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

BACHELOR OF ARTS

ALT 305: THE AFRICAN AMERICAN NOVEL

DATE:

TIME:

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## 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)

#### QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- 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

#### QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

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.

#### QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

Using examples from authors studied in this course, examine the significance of the Harlem renaissance in the growth of African American literature.

**QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)**

Using any artist of your choice, musician or writer, discuss the artist's style and how this has shaped their work.

**QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)**

Referring to any text studied in this course, evaluate the nature of characterisation common to the contemporary African American novel.



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**DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES**  
**SECOND YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR**  
**BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)**  
**BACHELOR OF ARTS**  
**ALT 200: EAST AFRICAN PROSE FICTION**

**DATE: 20/8/2021**

**TIME: 2.00-4.00 PM**

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**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**

**QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) (30 MARKS)**

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)

**QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)**

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.

**QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)**

Examine **any four** oral literary techniques employed in Ngugi wa Thiong'o's *Wizard of the Crow*.

**QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)**

“Okot p’Bitek’s *White Teeth* is a critique of culture,” Discuss.

**QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)**

Discuss how history is employed in Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye’s *Coming to Birth*.



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**FOURTH YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR**  
**BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)**  
**BACHELOR OF ARTS**  
**ALT 400: LITERARY AESTHETICS**

**DATE: 20/8/2021**

**TIME: 8.30-10.30 AM**

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**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**

**QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) (30 MARKS)**

Discuss the following concepts as used in literary aesthetics

(30 marks)

- a) Conformism
- b) Pleasure
- c) Pragmatism
- d) Historical necessity
- e) Truth
- f) Beauty

**QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)**

Using relevant examples from texts studied in this course, analyze any four key principles of literature according to Horatus T. Laccus (Horace).

**QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)**

Discuss the major arguments of Aristotle on poetry

**QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)**

With reference to Zola's *Their Eyes were Watching God* and Fyodor Dostoyevsky's *Crime and Punishment*, examine the relationship between literature and morality.

**QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)**

With relevant examples, discuss the value of literary aesthetics in African Literature



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DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

THIRD YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

BACHELOR OF ARTS

ALT 301: THEORY AND METHODS IN ORAL LITERATURE

DATE: 18/8/2021

TIME: 8.30-10.30 AM

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## 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**

### QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) (30 MARKS)

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)

### QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

With appropriate examples, discuss how performance theory is used in Oral Literature study.

### QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

Using a theory of your choice, analyze an oral narrative from your community

### QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

Discuss any five key aspects you would consider when translating oral texts to other languages?

### QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

Analyze any five issues that govern the collection, collation and transcription of oral literature data from the field.





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**DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES**  
**SECOND YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR**  
**BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)**  
**BACHELOR OF ARTS**  
**ALT 201: EAST AFRICAN POETRY AND DRAMA**

**DATE:**

**TIME:**

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**INSTRUCTIONS:**

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

**QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) (30 MARKS)**

- 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)

**QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)**

Discuss Any Two thematic concerns in Francis Imbuga's *Betrayal in the City* and *Man of Kafira*.

**QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)**

Analyse Any Two stylistic devices used in Francis Imbuga's *Aminata* and *The Return of Mgofu*.

**QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)**

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*.

**QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)**

Analyse John Ruganda's critique of Africa's situations in *Black Mamba*, *Echoes of Silence*, and *The Floods*.



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SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

APRIL SESSION EXAMINATION FOR BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

ALT 402: DRAMA

DATE: 21/7/2021

TIME: 8.30-10.30 AM

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## INSTRUCTIONS:

Answer Question One and any other two questions.

### QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) (30 MARKS)

- 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)

### QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

Discuss John Ruganda's political vision using any of his two plays.

### QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

Compare the nature of characterisation in Francis Imbuga's *Betrayal in the City* and *Aminata*.

### QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

With appropriate examples, analyse any four ways in which oral history shapes Wole Soyinka's dramas?

### QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

Discuss how Athol Fugard's play *The Blood Knot* portrays South Africa's racial histories.



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**DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES**

**APRIL SESSION EXAMINATION FOR BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)**

**ALT 400: LITERARY AESTHETICS**

**DATE: 22/7/2021**

**TIME: 11.00-1.00 PM**

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## **INSTRUCTIONS:**

**Answer Question One and any other two questions.**

### **QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) (30 MARKS)**

- 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)

### **QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)**

Using Jared Angira's poem "No Coffin, No Grave", demonstrate your understanding of literary language.

### **QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)**

Discuss the literary beauty, if any, in Taban lo Liyong's *Words That Melt a Mountain*.

### **QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)**

Explain the supervenient theory that proposes to read a literary work through aesthetic judgement.

### **QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)**

In what ways do Langston Hughes' poems portray the literary aesthetics of the Harlem Renaissance?



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DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

APRIL SESSION EXAMINATION FOR BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

ALT 401: AFRICAN LITERATURE

DATE: 23/7/2021

TIME: 2.00-4.00 PM

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## INSTRUCTIONS:

Answer Question One and any other two questions

### QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) (30 MARKS)

- 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)

### QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

**Either**

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

**Or**

Discuss Taban lo Liyong's exploration of multiculturalism in *Words That Melt a Mountain*.

### QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

Using relevant examples, examine the language politics in African literature.

### QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

With appropriate examples, discuss Ngugi wa Thiong'o's philosophy in respect to African identity and history.

### QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

Examine how Lewis Nkosi engages with South African racial histories in *Mating Birds*. (20 Marks)

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***Examination Irregularity is punishable by expulsion***



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DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

APRIL SESSION EXAMINATION FOR BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

ALT 208: LITERARY LANGUAGE AND PRESENTATION

DATE: 21/7/2021

TIME: 2.00-4.00 PM

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## INSTRUCTIONS:

Answer Question One and any other two.

### QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) Define Literature. (3 marks)
- b) Differentiate between connotative and denotative language. (4 marks)
- c) What is personification? In what circumstances is it usually used? (3 marks)
- d) Engage with the figurative language used in Robert Frost's poem "The Road Not Taken" (overleaf). (20 marks)

### QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

Analyse uses of symbolism in Grace Ogot's short story "Tekayo."

### QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

How effectively does John S. Mbiti use Biblical allusion in his poem "The Crucified Thief" (overleaf)?

### QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

Analyse satire in Hama Tuma's short story "The Case of the Prison Monger" (20 marks)

### QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

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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**DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES**  
**SECOND YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR**  
**DIPLOMA IN EDUCATION**

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

**DATE: 20/8/2021**

**TIME: 2.00-4.00 PM**

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**INSTRUCTIONS:**

**Answer Question One and any other two questions.**

**QUESTION ONE 30 MARKS (COMPULSORY)**

- 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)

**QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)**

With appropriate examples from texts studied in this course, discuss any two genres of drama.

**QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)**

Discuss the features of poetry as a form of literary expression.

**QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)**

Describe TWO types of short stories.

**QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)**

With close reference to TWO texts covered in this course, analyze the differences between Short Stories and Novels.



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**DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES**  
**SECOND YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR**  
**DIPLOMA IN EDUCATION (ARTS)**  
**ALT 0201: READING & INTERPRETING LITERATURE**

**DATE:11/8/2021**

**TIME: 8.30-10.30 AM**

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**INSTRUCTIONS:**

**Answer Question One and any other two.**

**QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) (30 MARKS)**

- a) Using ample illustrations, distinguish between Critical Reading and Spread Reading in literature. (10 marks)
- b) Explain how the following concepts apply in reading literature.
- i. Skimming
  - ii. Scanning
  - iii. Inference
  - iv. Paraphrasing
  - v. Annotation (20 marks)

**QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)**

“Without language there can never be literature” Discuss this statement with reference to TWO texts discussed in this course.

**QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)**

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



**QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)**

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

**QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)**

Using relevant examples, discuss how Lexical and Semantic levels of language are utilized in Literature.



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DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

APRIL SESSION EXAMINATION FOR BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

ALT 200: EAST AFRICAN PROSE FICTION

DATE: 22/7/2021

TIME: 8.30-10.30 AM

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## INSTRUCTIONS:

Answer Question One and any other two.

### QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) (30 MARKS)

Explain how the following contexts are utilized in East African prose (30 marks)

- a) Historical context
- b) Socio-political context
- c) Cultural context

### QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

Using appropriate examples, discuss the conflict between modernity and traditional African society as portrayed in East African prose fiction.

### QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

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)

### QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

With examples, analyze any five characteristics of East African short stories.

### QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

Using a text of your choice, discuss gender relations in East African prose.



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**DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES**

**APRIL SESSION EXAMINATION FOR BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)**

**ALT 303: THEORY AND HISTORY OF LITERATURE**

**DATE:20/7/2021**

**TIME: 8.30-10.30 AM**

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## **INSTRUCTIONS:**

**Answer Question One and any other two.**

### **QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) (30 MARKS)**

Discuss the following:

- a) The history of literature from antiquity to the present (15 marks)
- b) The development of theory in Literature. (15 marks)

### **QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)**

Discuss a theory of your choice indicating the proponents and key tenets

### **QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)**

Using the post-colonial theory, discuss Ngugi wa Thiong'o's *A Grain of Wheat*

### **QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)**

Using the sociological literary theory, demonstrate how theory shapes interpretations in literature.

### **QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)**

“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.



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SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

APRIL SESSION EXAMINATION FOR BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

ALT 410: DRAMA IN EDUCATION

DATE:20/7/2021

TIME: 2.00-4.00 PM

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## INSTRUCTIONS:

Answer Question One and any other two questions.

### QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) (30 MARKS)

- a) Giving characteristics for each, define the following terms: (30 marks)
- i. Drama
  - ii. Theatre
  - iii. Art
  - iv. Theatre in Education
  - v. Drama in Education

### QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

Using your own topic, describe how you would teach the topic using drama in education as method

### QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

“Drama in education is useful in making learning enjoyable” Discuss this statement.

### QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

Analyse ways in which drama in education has been utilized in the Kenyan educational system

### QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

With reference to John Ruganda’s *The Floods* and Joe De Graft’s *Muntu*, explain how you would teach themes in drama.



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**DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES**

**THIRD YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR**

**BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)**

**BACHELOR OF ARTS**

**ALT 300: STYLISTICS AND LITERARY TECHNIQUES**

**DATE: 12/8/2021**

**TIME: 8.30-10.30 AM**

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## **INSTRUCTIONS:**

**Answer Question One (Compulsory) and Any Other Two Questions**

### **QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) (30 MARKS)**

With appropriate examples, analyze how the following are used in study of Literary style:

- a) Practical Criticism (10 marks)
- b) Literary Criticism (10 marks)
- c) Stylistic Criticism (10 marks)

### **QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)**

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

### **QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)**

Drawing your examples from Charles Dicken's *Great Expectations*, show how writers could easily conform to linguistic rules in their creative writings.

### **QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)**

Present a contextual reading of Wole Soyinka's *Death and the King's Horseman*

### **QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)**

Present a formalist stylistic analysis of Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things*



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**FOURTH YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR**  
**BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)**  
**BACHELOR OF ARTS**  
**ALT 414: WOMEN IN LITERATURE**

**DATE: 17/8/2021**

**TIME: 8.30-10.30 AM**

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**INSTRUCTIONS:**

**Answer Question One (Compulsory) and Any Other Two Questions**

**QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)**

- 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)

**QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)**

With appropriate examples, analyse aspects of African feminism utilized in Literature

**QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)**

Examine how Margaret Ogola creates Salient Women Character Archetypes in her *novel The River and the Source*.

**QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)**

Discuss the concept of gender across various epochs as portrayed in women writings in Literature

**QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)**

Taking care to comment on their effectiveness, analyse Two aspects of style utilized in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*.