



# MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations 2022/2023

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS

SECOND YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF ARTS  
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

ALT 100: CRITICAL READING AND RESPONSE

Date:

Time:

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## INSTRUCTIONS

Answer Question One (Compulsory) and Any Other Two Questions

1. a) Using ample illustrations, explain the stages involved in critical reading and response. **(15 Marks)**  
b) With examples, explicate the importance of literary criticism. **(15 Marks)**
2. Drawing your examples from John Ruganda's *The Burdens*, discuss character-oriented approaches to Literary Criticism. **(20 Marks)**
3. With examples from Francis Imbuga's *The Burning of Rags*, analyse how context plays a pivotal role in literary interpretations. **(20 Marks)**
4. Using a content oriented approach, analyse Margaret Ogola's *The River and the Source*. **(20 Marks)**
5. Ken Saro Wiwa's short-story "Africa Kills her Sun" is an interesting read. Using a reader-oriented approach, analyse the subject matter of the story. **(20 Marks)**





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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

ALT101: INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY GENRES

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)

1. a) Explain the nature and function of literature using examples from texts studied in this unit.  
(15 Marks)
- b) Out of the texts studied in this unit, which one has appealed the most to you and why?  
(15 marks)

Section B

2. What are the FOUR significant aspects that you would examine when analysing a literary novel? Provide ample illustrations.  
(20marks)
3. With adequate examples, explain the distinguishing features for the novel, drama and poetry.  
(20marks)
4. Examine the characteristics of a tragedy using illustrations from any play studied in this unit.  
(20marks)



5. Using your knowledge of imagery in poetry, attempt an appraisal of the images in the following poem: (20 Marks)

**Like the Sea and its waters by Waigwa Wachira**

I have seen the sun rise and set  
with a volcanic passion of flaming orange,  
And I have thought of a love that once rose and set  
like the sun in the sky  
I have watched the trees at sunset  
And mountains at dusk with purple blankets  
And soft clouds of ink,  
and softly, I have thought of you.

I have stood on the ferry in the Indian Ocean  
And have breathed the sweet scented air  
that God gave to the sea  
And I have thought of the fragrance of a love that shone so brightly  
like the stars in the sky

I have sat barefoot on the rocks by the lake  
Wondering what went wrong  
Wishing I could hold you  
Knowing that I have lost you  
Feeling my thoughts fly  
like a bird across the sea  
On the lonely wings of love, far...  
Far away from home and you

And as I walk the sands of a shore  
that our feet used to know  
My eyes hurt with unshed tears  
My soul turning as the wind calls your name



For I miss you desperately  
And I long for you with every breath I take  
If I could touch and hold the sun  
I'd give it to you  
If I could plant flowers in the sand and make them grow  
I'd plant them just for you  
For I have kissed you when you cried  
and tasted the salty blue turbulence of your soul

And if in my turn  
I should give up and die  
or simply break down and cry  
Forgive me lady dear  
and help me dry my tears  
For it is the cry of the fisherman  
After the sea is gone

You are like the sea  
and its waters to me  
and I have loved you dearly

more dearly than the spoken word can tell...



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SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS

SECOND-YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF ARTS  
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

REGULAR EXAMINATION

ALT 200: EAST AFRICAN PROSE

Date:

Time:

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## INSTRUCTIONS

Answer Question One (Compulsory) and Any Other Two Questions

1.
  - a) Give a brief history of East African Prose fiction (15 Marks)
  - b) Ngugi wa Thiong'o employs historical allusion in *Weep Not, Child*. Discuss(15marks)
2. Analyse the use of mythology in Grace Ogot's *The Strange Bride* (20 Marks)
3. With reference to "The Goldsmith's Daughter and the Inlay Artist" by Parvin D Syal, discuss how East African Asian writing interrogates issues of belonging and class consciousness. (20Marks)
4. Discuss how Timothy Wangusa in *Lost in Wonder* foregrounds political issues afflicting Uganda. (20 marks)
5. Examine stylistic devices employed by Bushra al-Fadil in "The Story of the Girl Whose Birds Flew Away" to depict a chaotic city. (20 Marks)



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SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS

SECOND YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF ARTS  
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

ALT 201: EAST AFRICAN POETRY AND DRAMA

Date:

Time:

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## INSTRUCTIONS

Answer Question One (Compulsory) and Any Other Two Questions

1. a) With appropriate examples, explain aspects of poetry in East Africa. **(10 Marks)**.  
b) Examine the dramaturgy of power and politics in Ngugi wa Thiongo and Micere Mugo's *The Trials of Dedan Kimathi*. **(20 Marks)**.
2. Drawing your illustrations from Stella Nyanzi's *No Roses from my Mouth*, discuss the use of polyphony and dialogism in East African Poetry. **(20 Marks)**
3. With ample examples, explain ways in which East African playwrights rely on nature of characterisation to bring out subject matter. **(20 Marks)**.
4. While taking care to comment on its effectiveness, discuss how mytho-historical context shapes thematic concerns in Ebrahim Hussein's *Kinjeketile*. **(20 Marks)**.
5. Discuss how East African poetry addresses environmental concerns in the region. **(20 Marks)**.





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DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS

SECOND YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF ARTS  
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

ALT 300: STYLISTICS AND LITERARY TECHNIQUES

Date:

Time:

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## INSTRUCTIONS

Answer Question One (Compulsory) and Any Other Two Questions

1. a) Analyse the conventions of practical criticism (10 Marks)  
b) Discuss the modes of classifying stylistics. (20 Marks)
2. Examine forms of deviation in Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. (20 Marks)
3. Present a stylistic analysis of Sembene Ousmane's *God's Bits of Wood* (20 Marks)
4. In *Arrow of God*, Achebe deploys culture to present a stylistic rendition of his story. Discuss. (20 Marks)
5. Analyse elements of form in John Ruganda's *The Floods* (20 Marks)



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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

ALT301: THEORY AND METHOD IN ORAL LITERATURE

Date:

Time:

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## INSTRUCTIONS

*This paper consists of FIVE questions*

*Answer question ONE and other TWO questions in this paper*

Section A: (Compulsory)

1. a) With adequate illustrations from your community, explain how you can apply an ethnographic approach to study short formulaic forms? (15 Marks)
- b) Using a trickster narrative of choice, demonstrate how you can apply a structural approach to analyse the moral lessons therein. (15 marks)

Section B

2. Drawing your examples from any narrative of the proud girl and the ogre, explain how you can apply Freudian psychoanalysis to interpret its meaning. (20marks)
3. Discuss the centrality of fieldwork in the study of oral literature. (20marks)
4. Explain how you can apply ecocriticism to demonstrate the utilitarian function of aetiological narratives. (20marks)
5. Examine the common tools and methods you can engage in contemporary urban settings to document and archive oral literature materials. (20 Marks)







MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY  
University Examinations 2021/2022

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS

THIRD-YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF ARTS  
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

REGULAR EXAMINATION

ALT 303: THEORY & HISTORY OF LITERATURE

Date:

Time:

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#### INSTRUCTIONS

Answer Question One (Compulsory) and Any Other Two Questions

1.
  - a) Using examples, Explain any five reasons why theory is important in criticism. (15 MARKS)
  - b) Elucidate processes involved in coming up with a comprehensive critical interpretation of a text (15 Mark)
2. Analyse William Shakespeare's *Othello* through a feminist lens. (20 Marks)
3. Using Ngugi wa Thiong'o's *Weep Not, Child* highlight what post-colonial writers do. (20 Marks)
4. Attempt a Marxist interpretation of ANY text studied in this course (20marks)
5. Using formalist criticism, analyse the following poem. (20 Marks)



Spring and All [By the road to the contagious hospital]  
William Carlos Williams - 1883-1963

By the road to the contagious hospital  
under the surge of the blue  
mottled clouds driven from the  
northeast—a cold wind. Beyond, the  
waste of broad, muddy fields  
brown with dried weeds, standing and fallen

patches of standing water  
the scattering of tall trees

All along the road the reddish  
purplish, forked, upstanding, twiggy  
stuff of bushes and small trees  
with dead, brown leaves under them  
leafless vines—

Lifeless in appearance, sluggish  
dazed spring approaches—

They enter the new world naked,  
cold, uncertain of all  
save that they enter. All about them  
the cold, familiar wind—

Now the grass, tomorrow  
the stiff curl of wildcarrot leaf  
One by one objects are defined—  
It quickens: clarity, outline of leaf

But now the stark dignity of  
entrance—Still, the profound change  
has come upon them: rooted, they  
grip down and begin to awaken.





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University Examinations 2022/2023

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR DEGREE IN BACHELOR OF ARTS

ALT305: 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)

1. a) With adequate illustrations, explain the defining characteristics of the African American novel.  
(15 Marks)  
  
b) Examine how Toni Morrison explores the consequences of racial discrimination in *The Bluest Eye*.  
(15 marks)

Section B

2. Using either *The Narrative of Fredrick Douglass* or *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* as narrated by the writers discuss the centrality of autobiographical writing to the African American novel.  
(20marks)
3. Discuss the historical and artistic components that characterise the Harlem renaissance as a landmark in African American writings.  
(20marks)



4. Using ample illustrations, examine the interplay between racial discrimination and violence as meted out in African American literature.  
(20marks)
5. Both Dubois and Baldwin are concerned with issues of identity and identification in their writings. Discuss this statement by providing illustrations from their works.  
(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

**ALT402: DRAMA**

**Date:**

**Time:**

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## **INSTRUCTIONS**

*This paper consists of **FIVE** questions*

*Answer question **ONE** and other **TWO** questions in this paper*

Section A: (Compulsory)

1. a) Which historical period of drama did you find most interesting and why?

(10marks)

- b) Using any Shakespearean play, evaluate the characteristics of the ideal tragedy as espoused by Aristotle. (20 marks)

Section B

2. Oedipus in *King Oedipus* by Sophocles is a man whose die has been cast no matter what he decides to do. Do you agree? Provide illustrations from the text to make your argument.

(20marks)

3. Examine the characteristics of realism in drama as brought out in Ibsen's play *An Enemy of the People*.

(20marks)

4. Discuss the symbolic significance of African drama as depicted by a contemporary African playwright of your choice.

(20marks)

5. With reference to any play studied in this course, examine the way the playwright advocates for women emancipation and empowerment.

(20marks)





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DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS

SECOND YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF ARTS

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

ALT 410: DRAMA IN EDUCATION

Date:

Time:

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## INSTRUCTIONS

Answer Question One (Compulsory) and Any Other Two Questions

1. a) With appropriate examples, explain characteristics of drama in education (10 Marks)  
b) Analyse how drama in education promotes goals of education in Kenya (20 Marks)
2. Using ample illustrations, discuss principles of child drama. (20 Marks)
3. With appropriate examples, examine techniques of drama in Education(20 Marks)
4. While taking care to comment on its effectiveness, discuss ways in which you can utilize drama in education as a tool for instruction in your class(20 Marks)
5. In your own opinion, discuss challenges of implementing Drama in Education in Kenyan Schools (20 Marks)





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DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS

SECOND YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF ARTS  
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

ALT 417: MAJOR LITERARY MOVEMENTS

Date:

Time:

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## INSTRUCTIONS

Answer Question One (Compulsory) and Any Other Two Questions

1. a) Explain characteristics of Major Literary Movements (15 Marks)  
b) Explain the value of understanding Literary Movements as a student of Literature. (15 Marks)
2. Present a structural reading of *Arrow of God*. (20 Marks)
3. Analyse how Realism applies to the interpretation of Ngugi wa Thiong'o's *A Grain of Wheat*. (20 Marks)
4. In what ways could historicism be used to explain the subject matter in Kinyanjui Kombani's *The Last Villains of Molo*. (20 Marks)
5. Discuss ways in which Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations* exemplifies aspirations of romanticism. (20 Marks)





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DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR MASTER OF ARTS IN LITERATURE

ALT 501: AFRICAN POETRY

Date:

Time:

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## INSTRUCTIONS

*This paper consists of FIVE questions*

*Answer question ONE and other TWO questions in this paper*

Section A: (Compulsory)

1. With the use of ample illustrations, examine the features of Negritude poetry.

(20 marks)

Section B

2. African poetry is characterised by concretised images of flora and fauna. Discuss.

(20marks)

3. With reference to adequate examples, evaluate the significance of the use of totems in African poetry.

(20marks)





4. Using adequate examples of poems/poets, examine the efficacy of African poetry in voicing issues of women in the continent.  
(20marks)
5. With reference to Lusophone poetry, demonstrate the debilitating effects of violence on both the individual and the society at large.  
(20marks)



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SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR MASTER OF ARTS IN LITERATURE

ALT507: AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE

Date:

Time:

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## INSTRUCTIONS

*This paper consists of FIVE questions*

*Answer question ONE and other TWO questions in this paper*

Section A: (Compulsory)

1. With the help of ample illustrations, examine how African American writers have used the genre of self-writing to reconstruct selfhood and victimhood.  
(20 marks)

Section B:

2. Using writers or artists of choice, discuss the salient features of the Harlem renaissance as an important epoch in African American literature.  
(20 marks)
3. African American women writing is characterised by a sense of urgency and agency. With reference to female authors of choice, validate the truth in this statement.  
(20 marks)



4. With reference to texts/writers of choice, evaluate the significance of the American dream as an important motif in African American literature. (20 marks)
5. Using ample illustrations from James Baldwin's works, discuss how the author uses writing as a tool to deconstruct religious white supremacy and discrimination. (20 marks)



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SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS

MASTER OF ARTS (LITERATURE)

ALT 508: CARIBBEAN LITERATURE

**Date:**

**Time:**

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## INSTRUCTIONS

Answer Question One (Compulsory) and Any Other Two Questions

1. Using Edgar Mittelholzer's *My bones and my Flute*, analyse the binary representation of myth and spirits in Caribbean Literature. (20 Marks).
2. Discuss ways in which Caribbean writers grapple with Diaspora Identities as envisioned in Jean Rhys' *Wide Sargasso Sea*. (20 Marks).



3. With reference to Sam Selvon's *A Brighter Sun*, examine how *Caribbean* writers deal with issues of memory, silence and trauma in the post-slavery era. **(20 Marks)**
4. V.S Naipaul's *Miguel Street* presents us with the Solomonic Wisdom of vanity in society. Explicate **(20 Marks)**
5. Demonstrate how George Lamming's *In the Castle of my Skin* helps us rethink the concept of home in the Caribbean. **(20 Marks)**



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**University Examinations 2022/2023**

**SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS**

**MASTER OF ARTS (LITERATURE)**

**ALT 509: RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES**

**Date:**

**Time:**

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## **INSTRUCTIONS**

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

1. Discuss ways in which research in Literature will anchor contemporary and global issues in the world today. **(20 Marks)**
2. In what ways do philosophical constructs influence research practices in Literature? **(20 Marks)**.
3. With ample illustrations, explain how you can deploy ethnography in your research. **(20 Marks)**.



4. Discuss mutations of Orature in contemporary research in Literature. (20 Marks).
  
5. Theory provides the canvass upon which literary interpretations are articulated. Discuss (20 Marks).

