



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations 2022/2023

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:

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...