



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations 2017/2018

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

FOURTH YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION

ALT 402: DRAMA

DATE: 4/12/2017

TIME: 8:30 – 10:30 AM

INSTRUCTIONS

This paper consists of FIVE questions

Answer question ONE and other TWO questions in this paper

SECTION A: (COMPULSORY)

1. a) Explain key differences in Miracle, Mystery and Morality plays. (10 marks)
- b) Using *Oedipus the King* by Sophocles, discuss the key components of Greek tragedy and Greek theatre. (20 marks)

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY OTHER TWO QUESTIONS

2. “William Shakespeare’s tragedies are characterised with incidents that arouse pity and fear, wherewith accomplishes catharsis.” Using any of Shakespeare’s plays, discuss this statement. (20 marks)
3. Evaluate the characteristics of symbolic drama using Bertolt Brecht’s *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*. (20 marks)
4. With illustrations from Francis Imbuga’s *The Return of Mgofu*, evaluate how contemporary drama grapples with social-political issues in Kenya. (20 marks)
5. With reference to Samuel Becket’s *Waiting for Godot*, examine the role of drama in the times of world war. (20 marks)



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations 2017/2018

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

AUGUST SESSION EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF ARTS

ALT402: DRAMA

DATE: SCHOOLBASED

TIME:

INSTRUCTIONS

This paper consists of FIVE questions

Answer question ONE and other TWO questions in this paper

SECTION A: (COMPULSORY)

1. a) Explain the differences between Greek and Elizabethan theatre. (10 marks)
- c) Using *Oedipus the King* by Sophocles, discuss how tragedies portray heroes struggling with their tragic flaws and the consequences? (20 marks)

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY OTHER TWO QUESTIONS

2. With reference to William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, discuss the role of the supernatural towards Macbeth's tragic fall. (20 marks)
3. Evaluate the theme of justice as portrayed in Bertolt Brecht's play *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*. (20 marks)
4. With illustrations from Francis Imbuga's *The Return of Mgofu*, evaluate how the play deals with African leadership. (20 marks)
5. Drawing your examples from any play studied in this unit, examine the role of drama as an instrument of socio-political transformation. (20 marks)



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University Examinations 2017/2018

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

AUGUST SESSION EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION

ALT 302: POETRY

DATE: SCHOOLBASED

TIME:

INSTRUCTIONS

This paper consists of FIVE questions

Answer question ONE and other TWO questions in this paper

SECTION A: (COMPULSORY)

1. a) With reference to the poem below, describe the main concerns of negritude poets. (15 marks)

Africa by David Diop

Africa my Africa
Africa of proud warriors in ancestral savannahs
Africa of whom my grandmother sings
On the banks of the distant river
I have never known you
But your blood flows in my veins
Your beautiful black blood that irrigates the fields
The blood of your sweat
The sweat of your work
The work of your slavery
Africa, tell me Africa
Is this your back that is unbent
This back that never breaks under the weight of humiliation
This back trembling with red scars
And saying no to the whip under the midday sun
But a grave voice answers me
Impetuous child that tree, young and strong
That tree over there
Splendidly alone amidst white and faded flowers
That is your Africa springing up anew
springing up patiently, obstinately
Whose fruit bit by bit acquires
The bitter taste of liberty.

- b) Using any poems studied in this class, explain any FIVE defining characteristics of oral poetry. (15 marks)

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY OTHER TWO QUESTIONS

2. With adequate examples to illustrate your answer, analyse TWO main themes in from Southern African poetry. (20 marks)
3. Using Okot p'Bitek's poems, explain the role of African poets in conveying our social-cultural identity as Africans. (20 marks)
4. Focussing on the current political scenario in East Africa, explain ways through which African poets would respond to "our situation". (20 marks)
5. While taking care to showing how they help to bring out the main theme of the poem, discuss the stylistic devices employed in the poem below. (20 marks)

LETTER FROM A CONTRACT WORKER

I wanted to write you a letter
my love,
a letter that would tell
of this desire
to see you
of this fear
of losing you
of this more than benevolence that I feel
of this indefinable ill that pursues me
of this yearning to which I live in total surrender ...

I wanted to write you a letter
my love,
a letter of intimate secrets,
a letter of memories of you,
of you
of your lips red as henna
of your hair black as mud
of your eyes sweet as honey
of your breasts hard as wild orange
of your lynx gait
and of your caresses
such that I can find no better here ...

I wanted to write you a letter
my love,
that would recall the days in our haunts
our nights lost in the long grass
that would recall the shade falling on us from the plum
trees
the moon filtering through the endless palm trees
that would recall the madness
of our passion
and the bitterness
of our separation ...

I wanted to write you a letter
my love,
that you would not read without sighing
that you would hide from from papa Bombo
that you would withhold from mama Kieza
that you would reread without the coldness
of forgetting
a letter to which in all Kilombo
no other would stand comparison ...

I wanted to write you a letter
my love
a letter that would be brought to you by the passing wind
a letter that the cashews and coffee trees
the hyenas and buffaloes
the alligators and grayling
could understand
so that if the wind should lose it on the way
the beasts and plants
with pity for our sharp suffering
from song to song
lament to lament
gabble to gabble
would bring you pure and hot
the burning words
the sorrowful words of the letter

I wanted to write to you ...
I wanted to write you a letter ...
But oh my love, I cannot understand
why it is, why, why, why it is, my dear
that you cannot read
and I – Oh the hopelessness! – cannot write!



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University Examinations 2017/2018

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR DEGREE IN BACHELOR OF ARTS

ALT417: MAJOR LITERARY MOVEMENTS

DATE: 5/12/2017

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)

1. a) Describe your understanding of a literary movement. (5 marks)
- b) What are the key issues of the poetry of T. S. Eliot? Illustrate your answer with examples from Eliot's poetry. (10 marks)
- c) Using a literary text of your choice, explain key issues of Romanticism. (15 marks)

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY OTHER TWO QUESTIONS

2. Examine the essence of crime and punishment as explored in Dostoevsky's novel *Crime and Punishment*? (20 marks)
3. "Existentialism holds the view that humans define their own meaning in life, and try to make rational decisions despite existing in an irrational universe". Evaluate your understanding of this statement with illustrations from any text studied in unit. (20 marks)
4. In what way(s) are Harlem Renaissance issues similar or dissimilar to those of negritude and the black consciousness movement? Illustrate your answer with examples of poetry from the various contexts. (20 marks)
5. With the help of examples from Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, explain how the writer explores issues of colonialism and whether you agree with him or not. (20 marks)



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations 2017/2018

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

THIRD YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF ARTS

ALT 318: THE NOVEL

DATE: 6/12/2017

TIME: 8:30 – 10:30 AM

INSTRUCTIONS

This paper consists of FIVE questions

Answer question ONE and other TWO questions in this paper

SECTION A: (COMPULSORY)

1. a) With the help of a novel studied in class, describe the features of the bildungsroman novel. (10 marks)
- b) How has *Arrow of God* explored the subject of African cultural identity? Explain your answer with illustrations. (20 marks)

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY OTHER TWO QUESTIONS

2. Using Ngugi's *A Grain of Wheat*, discuss the significance of the historical moment in shaping the themes and style of the novel. (20 marks)
3. Examine the key elements of the plot in Armah's *The Beautiful ones are not yet Born*. (20 marks)
4. Evaluate narrative techniques adopted in Charles Dickens *A Tale of Two Cities* to underscore social issues affecting society at the time. (20 marks)
5. Using any TWO texts studied in unit, explain how character development helps shape our social perception of women. (20 marks)



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations 2017/2018

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

THIRD YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

BACHELOR OF ARTS

ALT303: THEORY & HISTORY OF LITERATURE

DATE: 6/12/2017

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)

1. a) Explain ways in which theory affects how we read literary texts. (10 marks)
- b) Describe key polemics of feminism and illustrate how they can be used to interpret *So Long a Letter*. (20 marks)

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY OTHER TWO QUESTIONS

2. Evaluate the queer issues evident in Wanner's novel *Men of South/London Cape Town Joburg*. (20 marks)
3. Discuss key tenets of historicism and new historicism and demonstrate how you can apply the same to analyse Ngugi's *Devil on the Cross*. (20 marks)
4. Examine psychoanalytic aspects at play in *Oedipus King* and demonstrate how these issues contribute to the tragic nature of the play. (20 marks)
5. Using any text studied in unit, describe formalism and new criticism explaining why you consider them appropriate tools for literary analysis. (20 marks)



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations 2017/2018

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

SECOND YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION

ALT 201: EAST AFRICAN DRAMA AND POETRY

DATE: 13/12/2017

TIME: 2:00 – 4:00 PM

INSTRUCTIONS

This paper consists of FIVE questions

Answer question ONE and other TWO questions in this paper

1. a) Using relevant examples, explain THREE KEY aspects that characterize East African Drama and Poetry. (10 marks)
b) Discuss at least four **socio-cultural** concerns that emerge in Okot P'Bitek's *Song of Lawino*. (20 marks)
2. Both Francis Imbuga's *The Successor* and John Ruganda's *The Floods* explore political issues pertinent to contemporary East African society. Using examples from the two texts, discuss. (20 marks)
3. Examine the character of Bwogo in John Ruganda's *The Floods*. (20 marks)
4. Explain how Okot P'Bitek uses animal imagery to bring out mytho-cultural issues in *Song of Lawino*. (20 marks)
5. Ibrahim Hussein portrays how society can destroy itself based on false hope. Drawing your examples from his play *Kinjenketile*, Discuss. (20 marks)



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations 2017/2018

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

THIRD YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR BACHELOR OF
EDUCATION

ALT 300: STYLISTICS AND LITERARY TECHNIQUES

DATE: 14/12/2017

TIME: 8:30 – 10:30 AM

INSTRUCTIONS

This paper consists of FIVE questions

Answer question ONE and other TWO questions in this paper

1. a) Explain three key aspects that you need to consider in defining style. (10 marks)
b) Discuss features of form that one has to bear in mind in stylistic analysis. (20 marks)
2. Illustrating from either John Ruganda's *The Floods* or Ngugi wa Thiong'o's *A Grain of Wheat*, show how flashback is indispensable in the establishment of the plot of a literary work of art. (20 marks)
3. With illustrations from any literary text of your choice, discuss the assertion that "matter is expressed in manner". (20 marks)
4. What is foregrounding in Stylistics? Illustrate your answer with appropriate examples. (20 marks)
5. Giving examples of syntactic variation, discuss the significance of such stylistic realization in literary works. (20 marks)



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations 2017/2018

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 302: POETRY

DATE: 5/12/2017

TIME: 8:30 – 10:30 AM

INSTRUCTIONS

This paper consists of FIVE questions

Answer question ONE and other TWO questions in this paper

1. Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow:

Death of an Eland – Henry Barlow

Those eyes
Those liquid green eyes
Tearless yet crying
Terrified and silent
Imploring for mercy
Those eyes haunt me

We stood and looked at her
Emaciated with hunger and pain
Lying on her side with the festering leg
Dripping with pus held in the air
Trying in vain to heave itself up with her other leg

Those eyes!
The terrified liquid eyes
Fervently transmitted pleas for mercy
And the body shook with terror and pain
The emaciated legs kicked feebly
Trying to get her up
Where she had tripped and fallen
There were ticks on her belly
Some were fat and bluish green

And there were numerous small brown ones
The eyes begged!
Those haunting eyes

The hunter said in a matter of fact way
It is kinder to shoot her
And raised his gun
There was a kick and a feeble neigh
The body relaxed; the neck fell back
The eyes looked at me
Still pleading
As if the hunter had not been merciful
And I stood there
Feeling foolish
I noticed the ticks
Still sucking
I walked away
With liquid eyes
And followed the hunter.

- a) Explain the subject matter of the poem (6 marks)
 - b) Discuss the features of style used in the poem (18 marks)
 - c) Explain how the tone of the poem helps to unravel the subject matter (6 marks)
- 2. Using relevant examples, discuss how Negritudism has influenced the development of poetry in Africa. (20 marks)
 - 3. With appropriate examples, discuss distinctive features of elegies. (20 marks)
 - 4. Using relevant examples, explain any four types of rhyme as used in poetry. (20 marks)
 - 5. Using examples of your choice, explain five types of images used in poetry. (20 marks)



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University Examinations 2017/2018

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

FIRST YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION

ALT 101: INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY GENRES

DATE: 11/12/2017

TIME: 8:30 -10:30 AM

INSTRUCTIONS

This paper consists of FIVE questions

Answer question ONE and other TWO questions in this paper

1. a) In your view, explain why it is important for a student of literature to have sound knowledge of literary genres. (15 marks)
- b) Drawing your examples from *Africa Kills her Sun*, explain the uniqueness of the short-story genre in Literature. (15 marks)
2. With reference to a novel studied in this course show how the study of character is important to understanding the meaning of the novel. (20 marks)
3. Identify and discuss the development of the main theme in Francis Imbuga's *The Successor*. (20 marks)
4. Margaret Ogola's *The River and the Source* explores gender imbalances that characterise society, Discuss. (20 marks)
5. Analyse the following poem (20 marks)

My Grandmother's House by Kamala Das

There is a house now far away where once
I received love . . . that woman died,
The house withdrew into silence, snakes moved
Among books I was then too young
To read, and my blood turned cold like the moon,
How often I think of going
There, to peer through blind eyes of windows or
Just listen to the frozen air,
Or in wild despair, pick an armful of
Darkness to bring it here to lie
Behind my bedroom door like a brooding
Dog . . . you cannot believe, darling,
Can you, that I lived in such a house and
Was proud, and loved . . . I who have lost
My way and beg now at strangers' doors to
Receive love, at least in small change?



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University Examinations 2017/2018

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

AUGUST SESSION EXAMINATION FOR BACHELOR OF EDUCATION

ALT 201: EAST AFRICAN DRAMA AND POETRY

DATE: SCHOOLBASED

TIME:

INSTRUCTIONS

This paper consists of FIVE questions

Answer question ONE and other TWO questions in this paper

1. a) Drawing your examples from plays studied in this unit, analyse key defining features of East African Drama. (10 marks)
 b) Discuss how Okot P'Bitek's *Song of Lawino* explores theme of tradition. (20 marks)
2. Francis Imbuga's *The Successor* is modelled in the form of an ogre narrative, discuss. (20 marks)
3. With reference to John Ruganda's *The Burdens*, discuss how the playwright portrays the fact that social strife experienced in society is contingent upon the brand of politics that society engages in. (20 marks)
4. Explain any four stylistic features in Okot P'Bitek's *Song of Lawino*. (20 marks)
5. Analyse how Kinjeketile is portrayed as the mythic hero in Ibrahim Hussein's play Kinjeketile. (20 marks)



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University Examinations 2017/2018

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

FIRST YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION

ALT 100: CRITICAL READING AND RESPONSE

DATE: 19/12/2017

TIME: 2:00 – 4:00 PM

INSTRUCTIONS

This paper consists of FIVE questions

Answer question ONE and other TWO questions in this paper

1. a) Discuss the place of form and its relationship to content in the critical appraisal of a literary text. Use examples from texts studied in this course.
(10 marks)
- b) Discuss Chinua Achebe's use of irony in the novel *Things Fall Apart*.
(20 marks)
2. Explain why you think logical fallacies undermine one's critical evaluation of a text.
(20 marks)
3. Argue for the effectiveness of epistolary monologue in Mariama Ba's *So Long a Letter*.
(20 marks)
4. Present your critical evaluation of Nadine Gordimer's short story "Country Lovers."
(20 marks)
5. Using relevant examples from *Poems from East Africa*, show how poetry engages with the theme of death.
(20 marks)

MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations 2017/2018

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

**SECOND YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR DEGREE IN
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (Y2S1)**

ALT 200: EAST AFRICAN PROSE

DATE: 15/12/2017

TIME: 2:00 – 4:00 PM

INSTRUCTIONS

This paper consists of FIVE questions

Answer question ONE and other TWO questions in this paper

1. a) Does gender influence novelists' responses to historical events? Illustrate.
(10 marks)

b) Yvonne Owuor's novel *Dust* (2013) presents great insights to Kenya's troubled histories. Using relevant examples from the novel, demonstrate how true this is.
(20 marks)
2. Nadifa Mohamed's *Black Mamba Boy* (2000) is structured on the journey motif. Show the significance of this structure in relation to Somalia's precarious socio-political situations.
(20 marks)
3. Euphrase Kezilahabi's *Gamba la Nyoka* (2006) offers a sharp critique of Julius Nyerere's idea of socialism. Discuss.
(20 marks)
4. In *Duniani Kuna Watu* (1992), Mohamed Said Ahmed uses the detective novel to explore social issues affecting Zanzibar. Discuss.
(20 marks)
5. With reference to selected short stories from Uganda and Grace Ogot's *Land Without Thunder and Other Short Stories* (1968), explain characteristics of the short story genre and how it addresses issues affecting society.
(20 marks)

Examination Irregularity is punishable by expulsion