



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations 2016/2017

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

FOURTH YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR BACHELOR OF
EDUCATION (ARTS)

ALT 401: AFRICAN LITERATURE

DATE: 25/7/2017

TIME: 2:00 – 4:00 PM

INSTRUCTIONS:

- i) Answer only Three Questions
- ii) Question one is Compulsory

1. a) “Whenever Ezeulu considered the intensity of his power...he would not dare” (pg.3) Discuss the context of this passage and relate it to the events that lead to the tragic ending of the novel Arrow of God. (20 marks)
- b) “It is the Englishness. It will Kill them all” (pg. 208). Discuss how this declaration in Tsitsi Ndangarembga’s Nervous Conditions re-ignites the language debate in African Literature. (10 marks)
2. With close reference to Ayi Kwei Armah’s The Beautiful ones are not yet Born, Respond to the assertion that the novel paints the bleakest picture about the sourness of African independence. (20 marks)
3. Struggle against human exploitation is made complete by women’s participation. Demonstrate the truth of this statement using any THREE characters from Sembene Ousmane’s God’s Bits of God. (20 marks)
4. Using any THREE characters from Alex la Guma’s In the Fog of the Seasons’ End, illustrate how individual commitment was central to the success of the political movement against apartheid. (20 marks)
5. Discuss the narrative mode employed in Saadawi El Nawal’s God Dies by the Nile to foreground the untold suffering of women in society. (20 marks)



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FOURTH YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR BACHELOR OF
EDUCATION (ARTS)

ALT 400: LITERARY AESTHETICS

DATE: 25/7/2017

TIME : 2:00 – 4:00 PM

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer only Three Questions
2. Question one is Compulsory

1. a) With appropriate examples from texts studied in this course, explain how the following binaries are used in Literary Aesthetics:
 - i) Good versus bad art (3 marks)
 - ii) Popular versus serious art (3 marks)
 - iii) Low versus high art (4 marks)
- b) Discuss how censorship in art has hampered the growth and development of African Literature. (20 marks)
2. Kihika in Ngugi wa Thiong'o's A Grain of Wheat and Bigger Thomas in Richard Wright's Native Son represent what can be described as Militant Aesthetics in Literature. Discuss. (20 marks)
3. Cultural aesthetics permeate Okot P'Bitek's Song of Lawino. Drawing your illustrations from the text, explain. (20 marks)
4. Tsitsi Ndangarembga's Nervous Conditions shifts focus on womanist aesthetics in African Literature. Discuss. (20 marks)
5. Choice is the critical dynamic highlighted in Ken Saro Wiwa's Africa Kills her Sun. Discuss. (20 marks)



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THIRD YEAR FIRST YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR BACHELOR
OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

ALT 300: STYLISTICS AND LITERARY TECHNIQUES

DATE: 24/7/2017

TIME: 8:30 – 10:30 AM

INSTRUCTIONS:

- i) Answer only Three Questions
- ii) Question one is Compulsory

1. a) How does a reader's understanding of the following socio-dynamic aspects of style enhance his/her interpretation of a literary text:
 - i) Register
 - ii) Diction
 - iii) Dialect (6 marks)
- b) Briefly explain the elements that characterize Literary Style (12 marks)
- c) Explain the stylistic effect of foregrounding in literary texts. (12 marks)
2. Using appropriate examples, discuss the relationship between form and content in literary analysis. (20 marks)
3. "Deviation is central to the creative process in Literature." Discuss. (20 marks)
4. Discuss possibilities available to a writer at the level of Lexical Deviation. (20 marks)
5. Read the poem below and attempt a stylistic analysis. (20 marks)

I MET A THIEF

On the beach, on the coast,
Under the idle,
Before the growling, foaming, waves,
I met a thief who guessed I had
An innocent heard for her to steal

She took my hand and led me under
The intimate cashew boughs which shaded
The downy grass and peeping weeds.
She jumped and plucked the nuts for me to suck;
She sang and laughed and pressed close.

I guessed;
Her hair was like the wool of a mountain sheep,
Her eyes, a pair of brown-black beans floating in milk.
Her legs, arms and neck;
And like wine-gourds her pillowy breasts;
Her throat uttered fresh banana juice:
Matching her face-smooth and banana-ripe.

I touched-but long before I even tasted,
My heart had flowed from me into her breast;
And then she went- High and South-
And left my carcase roasting in the fire she'd lit

By Austin Bukenya