



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations 2022/2023 Academic Year

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

EXAMINATION FOR MASTER OF ARTS IN LITERATURE

ALT503: THEORY OF LITERATURE

DATE: 27/4/2023

TIME: 9:00 – 12:00 NOON

INSTRUCTIONS

This paper consists of FIVE questions

Answer question ONE and other TWO questions in this paper

NB: Avoid replication of texts for different questions

QUESTION ONE (20 MARKS): (COMPULSORY)

The contemporary African literary scholar has to contend with varying interpretations of the issues of gender, sex and sexuality. Using the feminist literary theory and texts studied in this class for demonstration, discuss this statement.

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

Using any two texts from those studied in class, examine the salient issues in psychoanalytic theory.

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

Using any text of your choice, justify the relevance of Marxist literary theory in the interpretation of literature today.

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

Illustrate how you can attempt a deconstructionist reading of Barrett's *Blackass*.

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

Using an autobiography, evaluate the place of the autobiographical theory in the interpretation of the text.

Examination Irregularity is punishable by expulsion



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THIRD YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF ARTS

ALT 318: THE NOVEL

DATE: 12/4/2023

TIME: 8:30 – 10:30 AM

INSTRUCTIONS

This paper consists of FIVE questions

Answer question ONE and other TWO questions in this paper

QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) (30 MARKS)

- a) Which text/author did you enjoy the most and why? (15 marks)
- b) Using Dicken's *Great Expectations*, explain how social upbringing affects character and characterisation. (15 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

Examine the key aspects of language and style utilised in Jane Austen's novel *Pride and Prejudice*?

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

Lady Chatterley's Lover dramatizes two opposed orientations toward life; one which is abstract and hollow, and another which is concrete and somehow organic. Discuss.

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

With reference to TWO writers, discuss the milestones of the growth of the novel in Africa.

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

Using Ibrahim's *Season of Crimson Blossom*, discuss the presentation of individual choices against a socially restrictive society and the imminent conflict(s) thereof.