



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations 2018/2019

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

APRIL SESSION EXAMINATION FOR

MASTER OF ARTS (LITERATURE)

ALT 503: THEORY OF LITERATURE

DATE: 22/8/2019

TIME: 2:00 – 5:00 PM

INSTRUCTIONS

This paper consists of FIVE questions

Answer question ONE and other TWO questions in this paper

NB: Do NOT use the same texts for different questions

Section A: (Compulsory)

1. a) What are the main functions of literary theory? (10 marks)
- b) Using any text studied in class, examine the unconscious motives operating in the main character, that is, what core issues are illustrated and how do these core issues structure or inform the text? (20 marks)

SECTION B:

2. Using the ideals of Marxism and any ONE text to illustrate your answer, demonstrate the way(s) in which the text reveals and invites us to condemn oppressive forces? (15 marks)
3. Evaluate the main tenets of psychoanalytic theory as dramatized in *King Oedipus* and any other play studied in class. (15 marks)
4. Using BOTH a Kiswahili and an English text, compare to and with the suitability of ANY postmodern theory in analysing the thematic issues in the texts. (15 marks)
5. Using examples from any TWO poems, examine the suitability of historicism as a tool for literary analysis. (15 marks)