



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

(A Constituent College of Kenyatta University)

University Examinations 2015/2016

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

FIRST AND SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR DEGREE IN BACHELOR
OF EDUCATION

ALT100: CRITICAL READING AND RESPONSE

Date: 1/8/2016

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) Using examples, explain what is meant by the following terms in critical reading:
 - i. Cognitive and aesthetic nature of literature (4 marks)
 - ii. Literature is a mirror of the society (3 marks)
 - iii. Poetic license (3 marks)
 - iv. Popular and serious literature (4 marks)
- b) With the help of a text studied in class, describe the main differences between a story and a plot. (6 marks)
- c) Using a poem studied in class, describe FIVE types of imagery poets employ? (10 marks)

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS

2. Evaluate how Ng'ang'a Mbugua's *Terrorists of the Aberdare* can be interpreted as a symbolic title. (20 marks)
3. Examine any FIVE issues in Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* that lead you to conclude that Okonkwo is a tragic character. (20 marks)
4. Explain the dramatic structure adopted in Sophocles' play, *Oedipus*, or Ruganda's *The Burdens*. (20 marks)
5. Using Meja Mwangi's *Going Down River Road* illustrate how writers use figurative language to drive meaning in literary texts. (20 marks)



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

(A Constituent College of Kenyatta University)

University Examinations 2015/2016

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

FIRST AND SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR DEGREE IN BACHELOR
OF EDUCATION

ALT101: INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY GENRES

Date: 4/8/2016

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 the difference between tragedy, tragicomedy, and comedy by use of examples to illustrate your answer. (9 marks)
- b) Describe THREE aspects of style that poets utilize to enhance musicality in their poems. (9 marks)
- c) Using the skills acquired in this class, appreciate the language choices in the following poem: (12 marks)

I Speak for the Bush

By Everett Standa

When my friend sees me
he swells and pants like a frog
because I talk the wisdom of the bush
He says we from the bush
don't understand civilized ways
for we tell our women
to keep the hem of their dresses
below the knee
we from the bush, my friend insists,
do not know how to 'enjoy':
when we come to the civilized city,
like nuns we stay away from the nightclubs

where women belong to no man
and men belong to no women
and these civilized people
quarrel and fight like hungry lions

But my friend, why do men
with crippled legs, lifeless eyes,
wooden legs, empty stomachs
wander about the streets
of the civilized world...?...?

Teach me, my friend, the trick,
so that my eyes may not
see those whose houses have no walls
but emptiness all around;
show me the wax you use
to seal your ear
to stop hearing the cry of the hungry

Teach me the new wisdom
which tells men
to talk about money and not love
when they meet women;

Tell your God to convert
me to the faith of the indifferent
the faith of those
who will never listen until
they are shaken with blows

I speak of the bush:
you speak for the civilized-
will you hear me...?

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS

2. Using any TWO short stories for illustration, describe the distinguishing features of the short story as a genre of literature. (20 marks)
3. Evaluate the dramatic choices that lead you to conclude that *The Government Inspector* is a comic play. (20 marks)
4. Examine the key aspects that a literary critic has to consider when analysing a novel by using BOTH *Terrorists of the Aberdare* and *Coming to Birth* to illustrate your answer. (20 marks)
5. Examine how Ngugi and Achebe demonstrate the effects of colonialism in BOTH *Weep not Child* and *Things Fall Apart*. (20 marks)



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

(A Constituent College of Kenyatta University)

University Examinations 2015/2016

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR DEGREE IN

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF ARTS

ALT200: EAST AFRICAN PROSE

Date: 9/8/2016

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 FOUR defining characteristics of short stories. Use any examples from those studied in class to illustrate your answer. (10 marks)
- b) Explain the ironic twist in Kinyanjui Kombani's title *The Last Villains of Molo*. (10 marks)
- c) Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye's *Coming to Birth* celebrates the empowerment of women. Discuss THREE aspects that best illustrate this statement. (10 marks)

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS

2. Examine the theme of moral degeneration as brought out in **either** John Kiriamiti's *My Life in Crime* or Meja Mwangi's *Going down River Road*. (20 marks)
3. Using **either** Ben Mtobwa's *Dar es Salaam by Night* or Ng'ang'a Mbugua's *Different Colours* explain the impact of urbanisation on the main characters in the text. (20 marks)
4. Evaluate the effects of colonialism in Ngugi wa Thiong'o's *Weep not Child*. (20 marks)
5. With ample illustrations examine any four stylistics devices that Okot p'Bitek utilises in *White Teeth*. (20 marks)



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

(A Constituent College of Kenyatta University)

University Examinations 2015/2016

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR DEGREE IN BACHELOR OF
EDUCATION

ALT200: EAST AFRICAN PROSE (SCHOOL BASED)

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 TWO main differences between the short story and the novel. (6 marks)
- b) What are the common themes in East African prose? Use texts studied in class to illustrate any FOUR of them. (12 marks)
- c) Describe FOUR different forms of style adopted in Meja Mwangi's *The Cockroach Dance* (12 marks)

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS

2. Examine the significance of the choice of title in **either** Ng'ang'a Mbugua's novel: *Different Colours* or Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye's *Coming to Birth*. (20 marks)
3. Using Ben Mtobwa's *Dar es Salaam by Night* describe the challenges of urbanisation in contemporary East African countries. (20 marks)
4. Evaluate the effects of corruption as brought out in Ngugi wa Thiong'o's *Devil on the Cross*. (20 marks)
5. Explain why Okot p'Bitek's *White Teeth* can be interpreted as a text that celebrates traditional cultural values. (20 marks)



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

(A Constituent College of Kenyatta University)

University Examinations 2015/2016

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR DEGREE IN BACHELOR OF
EDUCATION

ALT 300: STYLISTICS (SCHOOL BASED)

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 concrete examples differentiate between paradox and oxymoron. (6 marks)
- b) Using adequate examples explain the meaning of Semantic redundancy as used in stylistics. (6 marks)
- c) Explain FOUR stylistic elements that enhance rhythm in poetry. (8 marks)
- d) Demonstrate your knowledge of lexical variation in stylistics by giving examples. (10 marks)

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS

(ALL ANSWERS IN THIS SECTION SHOULD AT LEAST BE 2PAGES LONG)

2. Discuss FIVE stylistic choices in Francis Imbuga's play *Betrayal in the City* that enhance humour in the play. (20 marks)
3. Meja Mwangi's *The Cockroach Dance* is more effective in its form than its content. Critique this statement using adequate examples to illustrate your answer. (20 marks)
4. Explain how the choice of the child narrator in V. S. Naipaul's *Miguel Street* acts as a cohesive device to hold the stories together. (20 marks)
5. Examine the stylistic choices adopted in the following poem to convey meaning. (20 marks)

love is more thicker than forget

(By E. E. Cummings: 1894-1962)

love is more thicker than forget

more thinner than recall

more seldom than a wave is wet

more frequent than to fail

it is most mad and moonly

and less it shall unbe

than all the sea which only

is deeper than the sea

love is less always than to win

less never than alive

less bigger than the least begin

less littler than forgive

it is most sane and sunly

and more it cannot die

than all the sky which only

is higher than the sky



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

(A Constituent College of Kenyatta University)

University Examinations 2015/2016

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR DEGREE IN

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF ARTS

ALT 300: STYLISTICS

Date: 5/8/2016

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 concrete examples differentiate between symbolism and allegory. (6 marks)
- b) Using adequate examples explain the following concepts:
 - i) Puns and verbal play (6 marks)
 - ii) Parody and satire (6 marks)
- c) Explain the aesthetic significance of rhythm in poetry. (6 marks)
- d) Explain the stylistic differences between tragedy and comedy. (6 marks)

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS

(ALL ANSWERS IN THIS SECTION SHOULD AT LEAST BE 2PAGES LONG)

2. Using ample illustrations from texts studied in class, describe FOUR forms of Semantic oddity as used in stylistics. (20 marks)
3. “Matter is expressed in manner.” Using Meja Mwangi’s *The Cockroach Dance*, explain how the text is more effective in its form than its content. (20 marks)
4. Discuss the significance of the use of the child narrator in V S Naipaul’s *Miguel Street*. (20 marks)
5. Examine the stylistic choices adopted in the following poem to convey meaning. (20 marks)

If We Must Die

If we must die, let it not be like hogs
Hunted and penned in an inglorious spot,
While round us bark the mad and hungry dogs,
Making their mock at our accursèd lot.
If we must die, O let us nobly die,
So that our precious blood may not be shed
In vain; then even the monsters we defy
Shall be constrained to honor us though dead!
O kinsmen! we must meet the common foe!
Though far outnumbered let us show us brave,
And for their thousand blows deal one death-blow!
What though before us lies the open grave?
Like men we'll face the murderous, cowardly pack,
Pressed to the wall, dying, but fighting back!
(Claude McKay)



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

(A Constituent College of Kenyatta University)

University Examinations 2015/2016

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR DEGREE IN BACHELOR OF
EDUCATION

ALT 301: THEORY AND METHOD IN ORAL LITERATURE (SCHOOL BASED)

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) Describe the qualities of a good oral artist and his importance to the society. (10 marks)
- b) How would you prepare for oral literature fieldwork if you were tasked to conduct research in Tana River? (10 marks)
- c) Why is it necessary to conduct research in oral literature amongst indigenous communities? (10 marks)

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS

2. What is the significance of diffusionism to the study of oral literature in Africa? (20 marks)
3. Using any narrative from your community for illustration, examine ethnomethodology as a theory and method in oral literature. (20 marks)
4. Outline the tools and methods involved in interviewing for oral literature research. (20 marks)
5. Evaluate the place of contemporary theories in the study and research of oral literature materials. (20 marks)



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

(A Constituent College of Kenyatta University)

University Examinations 2015/2016

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR DEGREE IN BACHELOR OF ARTS

ALT305: THE AFRICAN AMERICAN NOVEL

Date: 8/8/2016

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 any FOUR recurrent issues in the African American novel. (10 marks)
- b) Using Alice Walker's *The Colour Purple*, describe FOUR main concerns of women in the African American context. (10 marks)
- c) "The question of identity is at the heart of African American writers". Using any text to illustrate your answer, defend this statement. (10 marks)

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS

2. Using Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*, explain how patriarchy has ganged up with racial discrimination to impede women's efforts to achieve equality with men. (20 marks)
3. Discuss how Maya Angelou explores the subject of sexuality in *I Know why the Caged Bird Sings* to reflect women's oppression. (20 marks)
4. Evaluate FOUR narrative techniques adopted in *The Narrative of Fredrick Douglass* to make it an autobiographical text. (20 marks)
5. Using **either** Dubois's *Native Son* or Baldwin's *Go Tell it on the Mountains*, explain the trauma of slavery on the young African American male. (20 marks)