



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations 2016/2017

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

FOURTH YEAR APRIL 0EXAMINATION FOR BACHELOR OF EDUCATION

ALT 401: AFRICAN LITERATURE

DATE: 26/8/2017

TIME: 2:00 – 4:00 PM

INSTRUCTIONS

*This paper consists of FIVE questions
Answer question ONE and other TWO questions in this paper*

NB: Do NOT use the same text for different questions

SECTION A: (COMPULSORY)

1. a) Define African literature. (5 marks)
b) Explain why the language issue is central to the discussion of African literature. (5 marks)
c) Using any text by Chinua Achebe, discuss cultural conflict as a resultant effect of imperialism. (20 marks)

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY OTHER TWO QUESTIONS

2. Evaluate the significance of the autobiographical voice in bringing out the main theme in Anna P's *The Life of Anna P*. (20 marks)
3. Examine the significance of the use of the child narrator in the text *We Need New Names*. (20 marks)
4. Using Mujila's *Tram 83*, discuss how failed states in Africa have contributed to the impoverishment of her citizenry. (20 marks)
5. Evaluate Bessie Head's choice of characters as criticism of patriarchy in *Maru*. (20 marks)



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SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

FIRST YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR BACHELOR OF
EDUCATION

ALT 102: INTRODUCTION TO EAST AFRICAN ORAL LITERATURE

DATE: 31/7/2017

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) (30 MARKS)

1. a) Using your experience of *Kyamwilu* visit, describe how myths shape people's perception of phenomena in their immediate environment. (10 marks)
- b) Basing your illustrations on the elements of oral literature, explain why contemporary children TV shows should be considered as an emergent urban folklore genre. (20 marks)

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY OTHER TWO QUESTIONS

2. Using the case of storytelling in African traditional settings, explain why performance is central in oral literature. (20 marks)
3. Using ample examples, discuss the significance of political songs in the context of Kenyan elections. (20 marks)
4. Explain the most important approaches you would use in fieldwork for successful collection of oral literature materials. (20 marks)
5. Evaluate the significance of teaching a course such as oral literature in the 21st century. (20 marks)



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SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

FOURTH YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR BACHELOR OF
EDUCATION

ALT 414: WOMEN WRITERS (REGULAR)

DATE: 2/8/2017

TIME: 8:30 – 10:30 AM

INSTRUCTIONS

This paper consists of FIVE questions

Answer question ONE and other TWO questions in this paper

NB: Do NOT use the same text for different questions

SECTION A: (COMPULSORY) (30 MARKS)

1. a) Differentiate between the term gender identity, sexuality and gender expression. (15 marks)
- b) Explain the common gender agenda as explored in women writing. Use appropriate examples to illustrate. (15 marks)

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

2. Using Mariama Bâ's *So Long a Letter*, discuss how the epistolary mode is utilised to highlight the protagonist's suffering. (20 marks)
3. "Owour's *Dust* is an indictment of Kenyan politics." Explain how the text explores issues of leadership in relation to women's role in the history of Kenyan politics. (20 marks)
4. Compare to and with the presentation of the domestic space as a place for gender contestations in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* and Chimamanda's *Purple Hibiscus*. (20 marks)
5. Using **either** *Nervous Conditions* or *Mandate of the People*, discuss the way the writers explore gender inequality in their stories. (20 marks)



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DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

THIRD YEAR APRIL SESSION EXAMINATION FOR BACHELOR OF
EDUCATION

ALT 303: THEORY & HISTORY OF LITERATURE

DATE: SCHOOL BASED

TIME:

INSTRUCTIONS

This paper consists of FIVE questions

Answer question ONE and other TWO questions in this paper

NB: Do NOT use the same text for different questions

SECTION A: (COMPULSORY) (30 MARKS)

1. a) Describe the significance of theory to the study of literature. (10 marks)
- b) Discuss the key tenets of the psychoanalytic literary theory and explain how you would apply the same to analyse a literary text of your choice. (20 marks)

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY OTHER TWO QUESTIONS

2. “Ngugi wa Thiong’o has previously been described as a Marxist.” Using any one of his texts, respond to this statement critically. (20 marks)
3. In reference to a female author of your choice, evaluate the conceptual issues that guide our discussion of gender issues in literature. (20 marks)
4. Examine the key tenets of formalism/new criticism and demonstrate how you would apply the same to an interpretation of poetry. (20 marks)
5. Choose any ONE contemporary theory and explain its main concepts by using a text from those studied in class for illustration. (20 marks)



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SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

FIRST YEAR APRIL SESSION EXAMINATION FOR BACHELOR OF ARTS

ALT101: INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY GENRES

DATE: SCHOOLBASED

TIME:

INSTRUCTIONS

This paper consists of FIVE questions

Answer question ONE and other TWO questions in this paper

SECTION A: (COMPULSORY) (30 MARKS)

1. a) Briefly describe why form and content are crucial components in the analysis of literary texts. (6 marks)
- b) Explain the difference between fiction, drama, and poetry by using examples to illustrate your answer. (12 marks)
- c) Describe FOUR important issues that you would put into consideration in your analysis of a literary novel. (12 marks)

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY OTHER TWO QUESTIONS

2. Using any ONE text from those studied in class, discuss characterisation and how it helps to highlight the major themes in the text. (20 marks)
3. Evaluate the 'burdens' as dramatized in *The Burdens* by John Ruganda. (20marks)
4. Examine FOUR issues that *Terrorists of the Aberdare* explores that help to demonstrate the central theme in the text. (20marks)
5. Using the format provided in class, appreciate the key issues arising from the following poem: (20 marks)

A Freedom Song

Atieno washes dishes,
Atieno plucks the chicken,
Atieno gets up early,
Beds her sacks down in the kitchen,
Atieno eight years old,
Atieno yo.

Since she is my sister's child
Atieno needs no pay.
While she works my wife can sit
Sewing every sunny day:
With he earnings I support
Atieno yo.

Atieno' sly and jealous,
Bad example to the kids
Since she minds them, like a schoolgirl
Wants their dresses, shoes and beads,
Atieno ten years old,
Atieno yo.

Now my wife has gone to study
Atieno is less free.
Don't I keep her, school my own ones,
Pay the party, union fee,
All for progress! Arenâ•?t you grateful
Atieno yo?

Visitors need much attention,
All the more when I work night.
That girl spends too long at market.
Who will teach her what is right?
Atieno rising fourteen,
Atieno yo.

Atieno's had a baby
So we know that she is bad.
Fifty fifty it may live
And repeat the life she had
Ending in post-partum bleeding,
Atieno yo.

Atieno's soon replaced;
Meat and sugar more than all
She ate in such a narrow life
Were lavished at her funeral.
Atieno's gone to glory,
Atineo yo.

Marjorie Oludhe-Macgoye



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THIRD YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR BACHELOR OF
EDUCATION

ALT 305: THE AFRICAN AMERICAN NOVEL

DATE: 28/7/2017

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) (30 MARKS)

1. a) Explain how slavery defines African American literature. (10 marks)
- b) Using Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* explain how the discrimination of women is more than a gender issue. (20 marks)

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY OTHER TWO QUESTIONS

2. Using Booker T Washington's *Up from Slavery*, examine the historical background that shaped the struggle for the abolishment of slavery. (20 marks)
3. Discuss how Alice Walker explores the subject of sexuality in *The Colour Purple* to underscore women domination. (20 marks)
4. Evaluate the struggle for freedom in **either** *The Narrative of Fredrick Douglass* or *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* as narrated by the writers. (20 marks)
5. Using **either** Dubois's *Native Son* or Baldwin's *Go Tell it on the Mountain*, discuss the quest for identity in African American writing. (20 marks)