



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations 2018/2019

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DECEMBER SESSION EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

BACHELOR OF ARTS

ALT 303: THEORY AND HISTORY OF LITERATURE

DATE: SCHOOLBASED

TIME:

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer Question One (Compulsory) and Any Other Two Questions

QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) (30 MARKS)

- a) Demonstrate your understanding of the significant relationship between literary history, literary theory and literary criticism. Focus on five well illustrated points from texts studied in this course. (10 marks)
- b) Classical literary criticism stresses the social function of literature. Discuss five points to show the influence of classicism on literary artists of different historical periods. Draw illustrations from one text. (20 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

EITHER

- a) With reference to either Henrik Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People* or Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*, demonstrate your understanding of the term Realism in literature. Focus on five points.

OR

- b) With reference to Richard Wright's *Native Son*, critically analyse the ways in which the novel fits within Naturalism

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

Choose one text that you read for this course and examine five ways in which its form, structure and content reflect the social, cultural and historical and contexts of its setting/production.

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

Compare and contrast the steps taken by Marxist and Psychoanalytic literary critics in the interpretation of literary works. Focus on five points from one text that you are familiar with.

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

Choose one critical approach/literary theory and apply five of its key principles in the analysis of one text read for this course.