



KISII UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

SECOND YEAR EXAMINATION FOR THE AWARD OF THE
DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION [ARTS]
SECOND SEMESTER 2021/2022
[JUNE-SEPTEMBER, 2022]

LITT 223: AFRICAN LITERATURE I (POETRY AND DRAMA FROM EAST AFRICA)

STREAM: Y2S2

TIME: 2 HOURS

DAY: FRIDAY, 12:00 – 2:00 PM

DATE: 16/09/2022

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Do not write anything on this question paper.***
- 2. Answer question ONE (Compulsory) and any other TWO questions.***

1. a). Give the various definitions of African literature? (5 marks)
 - b). Define the term ‘court Poetry.’ (4marks)
 - c). Define African Traditional Drama (5marks)
 - d) Discuss how European tradition and formal education influenced the Development of modern East African Drama. (5 marks)
 - e) With Examples, explain the difference between drama and poetry. (6 marks)
 - f) What is Negritude? (2 marks)
 - g) Explain how negritude and Black arts Movement has influenced African literature. (3 marks)
2. Discuss the role(s) of a poet and dramatist as people who mirror or reflect the evils of their societies in East Africa. Discuss the truth of this statement with illustrations from poetry and drama texts from East Africa that you studied in this course. (20 marks)

3. With close reference to specific Literary texts from East Africa, discuss how each of the following periods has influenced the development and growth of East African Literature:

i) Pre- colonial

ii) Colonial

iii) Post Independence literature.

4. Discuss how Neo-Colonialism is evident in East African Literature. (20 marks)

5. With reference to the following poem, make a critical analysis of the various themes, styles and the suitability of the title to the context of East African Literature as studied in this course. (20 marks)

Naturally

I fear the workers: the writhe in bristling grass

1

And wormy mud: out with dawn, back with dusk;
Depart with seed, and return with fat-bursting fruit
And I eat the fruit.

And still they toil: at boiling point,

5

In head-splitting noise and threatening saws:
They suck their energy from slimy cassava
And age-rusty water taps: till they make a Benz.

And I ride in the Benz: festooned with
Striped rags and python copper coiling monsters

10

While the workers clap their blistered hands,
And I overrun their kids.

They build their hives: often out
Of the broken bones of fallen mates:
And I drone in them- `state-house`
Them, `collegize` them, officialize them,

15

And I... I whoore their daughters
Raised in litter-rotting hovels
And desiring a quickquickhighhighlifelife
To break the bond

20

And I tell the workers to unite:
Knowing well they can't see hear or understand:
What with sweat and grime sealing their ears
And eyes already blasted with welding sparks,
And me speaking a colourless tongue.

25

But one day a rainstorm shall flood
The litter-rotten hovels and
Wash the workers' ears and eyes clean,
Refresh the tattered muscles for a long-delayed
Blow.

-AUSTIN BUKENYA