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(Knowledge for Development)

KIBABII UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

2019/2020 ACADEMIC YEAR

SECOND YEAR FIRST SEMESTER

MAIN EXAMINATION - PART-TIME STUDENTS

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

COURSE CODE: LIT 210

COURSE TITLE: EAST AFRICAN POETIC TRADITIONS

DATE:

21
14TH MAY 2021

TIME: ~~9.00 - 11.00AM~~
2.00 - 4.00 PM

INSTRUCTION TO CANDIDATES

Answer Question **ONE** and any other **TWO** Questions

TIME: 2 Hours

This Paper Consists of 2 Printed Pages. Please Turn Over. ►

KIBU observes **ZERO** tolerance to examination cheating.

QUESTION ONE – COMPULSORY (30 MARKS)

- a) Explain five features of East African poetry
- b) Briefly explain how colonialism influenced modern East African poetry
- c) Discuss the significance of studying East African poetry at a university level.

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

Using examples from at least three poems studied in this unit, discuss at least eight themes addressed by the East African poets.

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

Using evidence from *Song of Lawino* discuss how Okot p' Bitek uses the following literary technique to achieve aesthetic effects.

- i. Use of song technique
- ii. Imagery
- iii. Symbolism
- iv. Irony
- v. Taboo words

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

With ample illustrations, discuss four elements of figurative language used by East African poets.

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

Read the **TWO** poems below and then answer the questions that follow:

I LOVE YOU MY GENTLE ONE

I love you my gentle one,
My love is the fresh milk from the rubindi
Which you drank on the wedding day;
My love is the butter we were smeared with
To seal fidelity into our hearts.

You are the cattle's bird's egg,
For those who saw you are wealthy;
You are the papyrus reed of the lake,
Which they pull out with both hands
And I sing for you with tears
Because you possess my heart:
I love you my gentle one.

By Ralph Bitamazire

THE GUILT OF GIVING

You've seen that heap of rags
That pollutes the air- conditioned
City centre,
That louse that creeps about
In the clean core of sophistication;
You've seen him way lay his betters
And make them start -
Especially when they have no change.

You recall the day you came upon him
And were startled by his silent presence.
Intruding into your preoccupation:
You hurled a coin
Which missed the mark
And rolled into the gutter
Where he groped for it
With chilling grotesque gratitude
That followed you down the street.
You dived into the nearest shop
To escape the stare
Of the scandalized crowd
That found you guilty
Of recalling attention
To the impenetrable patience
They had learnt not to see.

by Laban Erapu

QUESTIONS

- a) What is each poem's subject matter? (4 marks)
- b) Discuss any three stylistic devices and their effectiveness in each poem (6 marks)
- c) Explain the mood of each poem (4 marks)
- d) Comment on the tone of each poem (2 marks)

Discuss the relevance of each poem to contemporary society