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*(Knowledge for Development)*

# **KIBABII UNIVERSITY**

## **UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS**

**2020/2021 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**FIRST YEAR FIRST SEMESTER**

### **MAIN EXAMINATION**

#### **FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE**

**COURSE CODE: LIT 824**

**COURSE TITLE: AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE**

**DATE: 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2021**

**TIME: 2.00 - 4.00PM**

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#### **INSTRUCTION TO CANDIDATES**

Answer any **THREE** Questions. Do not duplicate illustrations.

**TIME: 2 Hours**

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

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

**QUESTION ONE - COMPULSORY (20 MARKS)**

“Although both Richard Wright and Ralph Ellison identify invisibility as a crucial aspect of the African American experience and psychology, they perceive and come to terms with it in different artistic ways.”  
Examine the validity of this statement.

**QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)**

With close reference to *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher, evaluate the role of the fugitive slave narrative on the African American Literary scene.

**QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)**

It can be argued that the Black Arts Movement was a provocative starting point for a new way of being considered an African American. Justify this statement with close reference to literary works of Amiri Baraka and Alice Walker.

**QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)**

To what extent can it be argued that the issues raised by Lorraine Hansberry in *A Raisin in the Sun* are still bedeviling present day America.

**QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)**

Critically evaluate the role of spirituals and vernacular traditions in shaping the growth of African American Literature.