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(Knowledge for Development)

KIBABII UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

**2020/2021 ACADEMIC YEAR
FOURTH YEAR, FIRST SEMESTER**

MAIN EXAMINATION

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

COURSE CODE: LIT 411

COURSE TITLE: AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE

DATE: 20TH JULY, 2021

TIME: 2.00 - 4.00PM

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)

Citing illustrations from the African - American works studied in this course explain the meaning of each of the following terminologies:

- i. Underground railroad
- ii. Uncle Tom
- iii. Black vernacular
- iv. The American dream
- v. The Harlem Renaissance
- vi. The Civil Rights Movement
- vii. The Black Arts Movement

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

Using illustrations from **Claude McKay's** poems, discuss the socio - cultural and political consciousness among the African - Americans.

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

Though believed to have been the darkest era in racial relations, it is possible that there were disguised opportunities in the entire slave period. Cite illustrations from **Phillis Wheatley's** poems and **James Whitfield's** poem titled *America* to support this assertion.

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

Cite the experiences and conflicts of any four characters in Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*. to discuss the notion that The American Dream is a mirage to members of the African American race.

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

"Stereotyping is an inherent human characteristic; more so in multi-racial societies". Discuss the various stereotypes discussed in Leroi Jones' *Dutchman*.

QUESTION SIX (20 MARKS)

Study the following poem and attempt the questions that follow:

SYMPATHY

I know what the caged bird feels, alas!
When the sun is bright on the upland slopes;
When the wind stirs soft through the springing grass,
And the river flows like a stream of glass;
When the first bird sings and the first bud opens
And the faint perfume from its chalice steals -
I know what the caged bird feels!

I know why the caged bird beats its wing
Till its blood is red on the cruel bars;
For he must fly back to his perch and cling
When he fain would be on the bough a - swing;
And a pain still throbs in the old, old scars

And they pulse again with a keener sting –
I know why he beats his wing!

I know why the caged bird sings, ah me,
When his wing is bruised and his bosom sore, -
When he beats his bars and he would be free;
It is not a carol of joy or glee,
But a prayer that he sends from his heart's deep core,
But a plea, that upward to Heaven he flings –
I know why the caged bird sings!

- i. Cite illustrations from the poem above to discuss any three evils of slavery. (6 marks)
- ii. How does this poem reflect the struggles of slaves during the slave period? (10 marks)
- iii. Discuss the effectiveness of any two poetic devices used in this poem. (4 marks)