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(Knowledge for Development)

KIBABII UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

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

SPECIAL/SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION

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

COURSE CODE: LIT 813

COURSE TITLE: THE AFRICAN AUTOBIOGRAPHY

DATE: 28TH SEPTEMBER, 2021

TIME: 8.00 - 10.00AM

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 (20 MARKS)

With close reference to Ngugi wa Thiong'o's *Detained: A Writers Prison Diary*, highlight the main features and discuss the significance of the African Autobiography in contemporary society.

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

Examine the interconnectedness between fiction and fact in the African Autobiography. Base your response on *Facing Mount Kenya* by Jomo Kenyatta.

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

With well illustrated examples from *Not Yet Uhuru* by Oginga Odinga, assess the ways in which autobiographical writers deal with the following in the process of composing their narratives:

- i. Re /construction and re/arrangement (10 marks)
- ii. Nature of memory (10 marks)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

It can be argued that the "self" of black autobiography is not an individual with a private career but a member of an oppressed social group with ties and responsibilities to the other members. Discuss the veracity of this statement with close reference to *Unbowed* by Wangare Maathai.

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

"Every autobiography is a work of art and at the same time a form of enlightenment." Justify this statement with close reference to Odinga's *The Flame of Freedom*.