



(Knowledge for Development)

KIBABII UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

**2021/2022 ACADEMIC YEAR
FIRST YEAR SECOND SEMESTER**

MAIN EXAMINATION

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

COURSE CODE: LIT 121

COURSE TITLE: EAST AFRICAN POETIC TRADITIONS

DATE: 11TH MAY, 2022

TIME: 2:00-4:00PM

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer Question **ONE** and any other **TWO** Questions. Avoid duplication of materials.

TIME: 2 Hours

This Paper Consists of 3 Printed Pages. Please Turn Over. ►

KIBU observes **ZERO** tolerance to examination cheating

QUESTION ONE- COMPULSORY (30 MARKS)

- (a) Comment on the features of East African Oral Poetry. (10 marks)
- (b) Discuss any five themes addressed by East African poetry using example from three poems from East African. (10marks)
- (c) Discuss the evolution of East African poetry from 'oracy' to contemporary poetry to contemporary poetry. (10 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

Using illustrations from Okot p'Bitek's *Song of Lawino* discuss the impact of Western civilization on African civilization.

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

- (a) Briefly explain how colonialism influenced modern East African poetry. (10 marks)
- (b) Using any one poem studied in this course, discuss elements of the Song tradition. (10 marks)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

Drawing illustrations from East African poetry, discuss four elements of figurative language used by East African poets.

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow.

Maji Maji

Sitting on a stool outside his mud hut,
The mzee scratched his head in a slow motion,
Trying to recall.
His dim grey eyes quiveringly stared into the distance
And with a faint faltering voice, he spoke
Of the wind that stirred sinister feelings,
Of the wind that rustled with foreboding,
Of the men who talked of deliverance and freedom,
And the warriors who pledged to fight.
Then he paused and snuffed some tobacco
'The Germans-' He shook his head and shuddered:
'Yes, they came- with guns, to be sure-

Many guns.’
His glance slowly shifted in a broken semi-circle
At each of the few listeners who squatted on the ground.
He pointed to the distant hills on his right:
‘For many days,
They resounded with drum beats and frenzied cries;
Then with the spirits of alien ancestors
They thundered with strange unearthly sounds.
Placing both his hands on his head,
He looked down on the earth and pronounced,
‘They fired bullets, not water, no, not water.’
He looked up, with a face crumpled with agony,
And with unsteady swing of his arm, he said.
‘Dead, we all lay dead.’
While the mzee paused, still and silent,
His listeners gravely looked at each other
Seeming to echo his last words in chorus.
Finally, exhausted, he sighed,
‘The Germans came and went,
And for many long years
No drums beat again.’

Yusuf O. Kassam

Questions

- i. Who is the persona in this poem? (2 marks)
- ii. Discuss the subject matter of this poem (6 marks)
- iii. Identify four features of style used by the poet to communicate his intentions and discuss their effectiveness. (8 marks)
- iv. Comment on the mood of this poem (4 marks)

END