



(Knowledge for Development)

KIBABII UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

2021 / 2022 ACADEMIC YEAR
FIRST YEAR SECOND SEMESTER

MAIN EXAMINATION

- JANUARY INTAKE -

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

COURSE CODE: LIT 121 TITLE: EAST AFRICAN POETIC TRADITION

DATE: 5TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

TIME: 9.00 - 11.00AM

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

TIME: 2 Hours

This Paper Consists of 5 Printed Pages. Please Turn Over. ►

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

QUESTION ONE- COMPULSORY (30 MARKS)

- (a) With reference to two poems studied in this course, comment on any five 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. (10 marks)
- (c) Drawing illustrations from East African poetry, discuss four elements of figurative language used by East African poets. (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)

Discuss the evolution of East African poetry from 'oracy' to contemporary poetry to contemporary poetry.

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow:

I took my son by the hand

I took my son
by the hand
felt the warm flow
of young blood
comfort my cold
heart

This way we trekked
Five miles
To attend celebrations

It was
The season for peace
Away with agitators
Love and brotherhood *juu*
Division and hatred *chini!*

We heard of
Selfless sacrifice

Condemned
 Selfishness
Damned
 Laziness
Extolled
 Industry
Celebrated
 Freedom
Carried bursting fruit baskets
high high high
on elevated haughty heads

Towards sunset
we set out
for home
my son's little warm hand
inside mine
he in his world
me in mine

Mother, he asked

Do we have *matunda ya Uhuru*
in our hut?

I laughed foolishly

Mother!
Yes son
Do we have some?

Silence

May I eat one
when we get there?
Move on son
darkness is looming fast
around us.

- *Micere Mugo*

Questions:

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