



(Knowledge for Development)

KIBABII UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

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

MAIN EXAMINATION

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

COURSE CODE: LIT 211.

COURSE TITLE: LITERARY THEORY AND APPLICATION

DATE: 31ST JANUARY, 2022

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)

- a) Explain what you understand by “literary theory”? (2 marks)
- b) State FOUR roles played by theory in the study of literature. (4 marks)
- c) What are the qualities of a good literary critic? (4 marks)
- d) Briefly explain Plato’s views on literature. (4 marks)
- e) With the help of theoretical approach(es), analyse any ONE of the following novels:
- i. *The Namesake* (2003) - Lahiri Jhumpa
 - ii. *The Moon Also Sets* (1997) - Osi Ogbu
 - iii. *The Last Villains of Molo* (2016) - Kinyanjui Kombani (16 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- a) Discuss the academic process of establishing a literary theory. (6 marks)
- b) Discuss what you understand by the following Aristotelian concepts:
- i. Mimetic Theory of Literature (2 marks)
 - ii. Six Formative Elements of Tragedy (6 marks)
 - iii. Hamartia (‘Tragic Flaw’) (1 mark)
 - iv. Theory of Catharsis (2 marks)
 - v. The Three Unities (3 marks)

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

- a) Explain the meaning of intrinsically and extrinsically inclined theories as suggested by Graham Hough in *An Essay on Criticism* (1966). (4 marks)
- b) Underline the contributions made by any TWO of the following theorists during the later classical and middle ages: (12 marks)
- i. Quintus Horatius Flaccus (Horace)
 - ii. Longinus
 - iii. St Augustine
 - iv. Ibn Rushd (Averroes)
 - v. St. Thomas Aquinas
 - vi. Dante Alighieri
- c) Write short notes on ONE of the following: (10 marks)
- i. Medieval Literary Criticism
 - ii. Characteristics of Medieval Literature

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- a) What is Feminism? (4 marks)
- b) Explain what you understand by any FOUR of the following strands of feminism:
- i. Liberal Feminism
 - ii. Psychoanalytic Feminism
 - iii. Radical Feminism
 - iv. Marxist Feminism
 - v. Separatist Feminism
 - vi. Gynocriticism
 - vii. African Feminism

QUESTION SIX (20 MARKS)

- a) Why can a critic not use a single approach to evaluate the work of literature? (2 marks)
- b) Explain what you understand by ONE of the following literary theories: (10 marks)
- i. Russian Formalism
 - ii. Trauma Theory
- c) With illustrations, discuss psychoanalytic approaches to literary texts. (8 marks)