



*(Knowledge for Development)*

# **KIBABII UNIVERSITY**

## **UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS**

**2019/2020 ACADEMIC YEAR  
FIRST YEAR SECOND SEMESTER**

### **SPECIAL/SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION**

**FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)**

**COURSE CODE: LIT 121**

**COURSE TITLE: EAST AFRICAN POETIC TRADITIONS**

**DATE: 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021**

**TIME: 2.00 - 4.00PM**

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#### **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) Discuss the characteristics of East African Oral poetry. (10 marks)
- (b) Using examples from three poems from East Africa, discuss at least FIVE themes addressed by East African poetry. (10 marks)
- (c) Explain briefly any FIVE roles of East African poetry to the society. Use illustration from any two poems studied in this course. (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) Compare and contrast traditional and modern East African poetry. (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:

**The Death of My Father**

His sunken cheeks, his inward-looking eyes,  
The sarcastic, scornful smile on his lips,  
The unkempt, matted, grey hair,  
The hard, coarse sand –paper hands,  
Spoke eloquently of the life he had lived.  
But I did not mourn for him.

The hammer, the saw and the plane,  
These were his tools and his damnation,  
His sweat was his ointment and his perfume.  
He fashioned dining tables, chairs, wardrobes,  
And all the wooden loves of colonial life  
No, I did not mourn for him.

He built colonial mansions,  
Huge, unwieldy, arrogant constructions;  
But he squatted in a sickly mud-house,  
With children huddled stuntedly  
Under the bed-bug bed he shared with mother.  
I could not mourn for him.

I had already inherited  
His premature old-age look,  
I had imbibed his frustration;

But his dreams of freedom and happiness  
Had become my song, my love  
So, I could not mourn for him.

No, I did not shed any tears;  
My father's dead life still lives in me,  
He lives in my son, my father,  
I am my father and my son,  
I will awaken his sleepy hopes and yearnings,  
But I will not mourn for him,  
I will not mourn for me.

*Dr. Henry Indangasi*

**Questions:**

- i. Who is the persona in this poem? (2 marks)
- ii. Discuss the subject matter of this poem as brought out. (4 marks)
- iii. With adequate illustrations from the poem, identify and discuss the main theme as is developed in this poem. (6 marks)
- iv. Identify four features of style used by the poet to communicate his intentions and discuss their effectiveness. (8 marks)