



*(Knowledge for Development)*

# **KIBABII UNIVERSITY**

## **UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS**

**2021/2022 ACADEMIC YEAR  
FOURTH YEAR SECOND SEMESTER (PT)**

### **MAIN EXAMINATION**

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

**COURSE CODE: LIT 413**

**COURSE TITLE: MODERN AFRICAN POETRY**

**DATE: 26/5/2022      TIME: 9:00- 11:00**

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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) Using well-illustrated examples from any **five** poets studied in this course, critically examine the main issues in Modern African poetry. (20marks)
- b) Explain **five** ways in which poetry from Africa been influenced by the western tradition. (10marks)

**QUESTION TWO – (20 MARKS)**

Citing examples from any **four** poems from *Song of Lawino* by Okot P'Bitek, explain how the theme of Alienation is brought out.

**QUESTION THREE– (20 MARKS)**

Critically evaluate any **five** distinctive features of South African Poetry. Use illustrations from poems by South African writers you have covered in this course.

**QUESTION FOUR – (20 MARKS)**

Discuss any **five** effects of Colonization basing your answer on *When Bullets Begin to Flower* by Margaret Dickinson for your illustration.

**QUESTION FIVE- (20 MARKS)**

Analyze the contribution of Jack Mapanje to the growth of Modern African Poetry.

**QUESTION SIX- (20 MARKS)**

Read the following poem and answer the questions after it.

**LETTER FROM A CONTRACT WORKER**

I wanted to write you a letter  
my love,  
a letter that would tell  
of this desire  
to see you  
of this fear  
of losing you  
of this more than benevolence that I feel  
of this indefinable ill that pursues me  
of this yearning to which I live in total surrender ...

I wanted to write you a letter  
my love,  
a letter of intimate secrets,  
a letter of memories of you,  
of you  
of your lips red as henna  
of your hair black as mud  
of your eyes sweet as honey  
of your breasts hard as wild orange  
of your lynx gait  
and of your caresses  
such that I can find no better here ...

I wanted to write you a letter  
my love,  
that would recall the days in our haunts  
our nights lost in the long grass  
that would recall the shade falling on us from the plum  
trees  
the moon filtering through the endless palm trees  
that would recall the madness  
of our passion  
and the bitterness  
of our separation ...

I wanted to write you a letter  
my love,  
that you would not read without sighing  
that you would hide from from papa Bombo  
that you would withhold from mama Kieza  
that you would reread without the coldness  
of forgetting  
a letter to which in all Kilombo  
no other would stand comparison ...

I wanted to write you a letter  
my love  
a letter that would be brought to you by the passing wind  
a letter that the cashews and coffee trees  
the hyenas and buffaloes  
the alligators and grayling  
could understand  
so that if the wind should lose it on the way  
the beasts and plants  
with pity for our sharp suffering  
from song to song

lament to lament  
gabble to gabble  
would bring you pure and hot  
the burning words  
the sorrowful words of the letter  
I wanted to write to you ...

I wanted to write you a letter ...  
But oh my love, I cannot understand  
why it is, why, why, why it is, my dear  
that you cannot read  
and I – Oh the hopelessness! – cannot write!

### QUESTIONS

- a) Explain how each of the stanzas relates to the title of the poem. (6marks)
- b) Identify and explain the significance of any three sound patterns used in the poem. (6marks)
- c) Discuss the subject matter of the poem. (4marks)
- d) What do the following lines mean as used in the poem?
- i) that would recall the shade falling on us from the plum trees. (2marks)
- ii) why it is, why, why, why it is, my dear  
that you cannot read  
and I – Oh the hopelessness! – cannot write! (2marks)