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(Knowledge for Development)

KIBABII UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

**2022/2023 ACADEMIC YEAR
FIRST YEAR FIRST SEMESTER**

MAIN EXAMINATION

**FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN COMPARATIVE
LITERATURE**

COURSE CODE: LIT 813

COURSE TITLE: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY

DATE: 16TH DECEMBER, 2022

TIME: 8.00 - 4.00PM

INSTRUCTION TO CANDIDATES

Answer question **ANY THREE** Questions.

TIME: 2 Hours

This Paper Consists of 2 Printed Pages. Please Turn Over. ►

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

QUESTION ONE (20 MARKS)

- a) Make a distinction between the main genres of biographical writing. (4 marks)
- b) Briefly explain why autobiography is a special Kind of Narrative. (4 marks)
- c) Outline the main theoretical approaches in autobiographical studies with illustrations from texts studied in this course. (12 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

Discuss the conception of the African autobiography as alternative history with reference to *Unbowed: One Woman's Story* by Wangari Maathai.

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

Use Peter Wasamba's *Relentlessly Resilient* to illustrate the following major elements of life-writing:

- a) The presence of story
- b) Motivation
- c) Telling

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

Examine the notions of therapy and recovery in regard to the African autobiography with reference to *Left to Tell: One Woman's Story of Surviving the Rwandan Genocide* by Immaculee Ilibagiza.

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

Refer to Ipara Odeo's *The Silent Footsteps* while explicating the main components and pitfalls of self-representation.