

**LIT 300: ADVANCED LITERARY THEORY & APPLICATION – MARKING GUIDE
[SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION]**

1. a) “Literary theory is the backbone of practical criticism and creative writing.” Paying attention to the relationship between literary theory, practical criticism and creative writing, discuss the validity of the statement. (10 marks)

*Marks to be distributed as:

-Explanation of the statement - (5 marks)

-Relationship to literary theory, practical criticism and creative writing - (5 marks)

- b) Using relevant theoretical approach(es), discuss the treatment of female characters in Mariama Ba’s *So long a Letter* (1981)? (15 marks)

*Candidates to use feminism

2. “Queer theory was created with the intention to fight whatever it had been labeled Queer.” In reference to some of the non-normative or deviant sexual activities, discuss the validity of this statement. (15 marks)

*- Relevance of the statement - (5 marks)

- Examples of deviant sexual behaviors - (5 marks)

- Textual examples - (5 marks)

3. a) Discuss some of the application of literary theories. (5 marks)

* - In practical criticism

-Creative writing

- b) What are the main concerns of the branches of feminist criticism mentioned below?

(10 marks)

i) Liberal feminist criticism

iv) Radical feminist criticism

ii) Marxist feminist criticism

iv) Psychoanalytic feminist criticism

iii) Gynocriticism

* -Liberal feminism - advocates for equality through legal means, etc.-(2 marks)

-Marxist feminism - works on the principles of Karl Marx - (2 marks)

-Gynocriticism - writer-centered - (2 marks)

-Radical feminism -advocates for the elimination of patriarchy - (2 marks)

-Psychoanalytic feminism – gender is not biological - (2 marks)

4. Make an informed analysis of Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* (1958) using any of the following **TWO** theories: (15 marks)
- iv) Post colonialism
 - iii) Psychoanalytic theory
 - v) Realist theory
 - iv) Feminism
5. a) By the use of postmodernism, structuralism and Freudian literary theories, attempt an analysis of Wahome Mutahi's *Three Days On the Cross* (1991). (10 marks)

*Candidates expected to:

-Relate the book to Wahome Mutahi's experiences in life.

-Discuss symbols used in relation to meaning

-Structure of the novel in relation to meaning

-Discuss how the writer has adopted the use of postmodernism

6. What do you understand by the following theories? (10 marks)
- i) Feminism
 - iii) Existentialist theory
 - ii) Queer theory
 - iv) Realist theory

b) In summary, show how structuralists go about their critical projects? (5 marks)

*How structuralists go about their projects:

-They relate literary texts to a larger structure.

-Concerned with the structure of literary texts.

-That there must be a structure in every text.

-Novelty of a text lies in the structure

-Believe that literary texts have multiple meanings

-Readers as makers of meaning

-Vladimir Propp came up with guideline for analyzing oral narratives.

7. Using any theoretical approach(es) you think most appropriate, attempt an analysis of the following piece of writing "Come, My Mother's Son." (15 marks)

*Marks to be distributed as:

-Mean/content/relevance of the poem

- (5 marks)

-Style/form in relation to meeting

- (5 marks)

-Other features/thematic concerns

- (5 marks)