



KIBABII UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

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UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

2014 /2015 ACADEMIC YEAR

2ND YEAR 1ST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

MAIN EXAMINATION (SCHOOL-BASED)

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR EDUCATION (ARTS)

COURSE CODE: LIT 200

COURSE TITLE: LITERARY THEORY AND APPLICATION

DATE: DECEMBER, 2014

TIME:

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer four questions in all. Question one is compulsory.

KIBUCO observes ZERO tolerance to examination cheating

QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY)

- a) What do you understand by the following terms:
- i) Classical literary theories (2 marks)
 - ii) Hamartia ('fatal flaw' or 'tragic flaw') (2 marks)
 - iii) Theoretical and practical criticism (4 marks)
 - iv) The Socratic problem (2 marks)
 - v) The Socratic dialect/method (2 marks)
- b) "The *Republic* contains Plato's *Allegory of the Cave* with which he explains his concept of the The Forms as an answer to the problem of universals." With close reference to the *Republic* by Plato, discuss the relevance of this statement.
(5 marks)
- c) With reference to the *Republic*, explain THREE recurrent themes in the seminal works of Plato.
- d) Discuss TWO qualities of a good literary critic. (2 marks)

QUESTION TWO

- a) Explain Aristotle's theory of catharsis and its relevance in literature. (6 marks)
- b) Discuss Plato's theory of mimesis and Aristotle's defense. (4 marks)
- c) What are the six formative elements of tragedy as explored by Aristotle in the *Poetics*?
(5 marks)

QUESTION THREE

Compare the following theories

- i) Structuralism (7 marks)
- ii) Deconstruction (8 marks)

QUESTION FOUR

b) Using any of the following theoretical approach(es) you think most appropriate, attempt an analysis of any ONE of the following books: (16 marks)

- i) *The Joys of Motherhood* (1979) - Buchi Emecheta
- ii) *Blossoms of Savannah* (2011) - H.Ole Kulet

QUESTION FIVE

- a) “Until philosophers rule as kings or those who are now called kings and leading men genuinely and adequately philosophize, that is, until political power and philosophy entirely coincide, while the many natures who at present pursue either one exclusively are forcibly prevented from doing so, cities will have no rest from evils... nor I think from human race”. Basing your argument on this excerpt from Plato’s the *Republic*, explain what you understand by the term ‘philosopher king’.
- b) Discuss Platonic and Aristotelian views on Literature. (8 marks)

QUESTION SIX

Evaluate the major principles by any TWO of the following theories: (15 marks)

- i) Psychoanalytic theory
- ii) Feminism
- iii) New Criticism
- iv) Formalism

QUESTION SEVEN

Do a feminist reading of Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye’s *Coming to Birth* (1986) and Mariama Ba’s *So Long a Letter* (1981). (15 marks)