



KIBABII UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

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UNIVERSITY REGULARY EXAMINATIONS

2nd SEMESTER 2012 /2013 ACADEMIC YEAR

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

(MAIN EXAMINATION)

COURSE CODE: LIT 212

COURSE TITLE: URBAN LITERATURE

DATE: 23rd August, 2013

TIME: 9.00a.m – Noon

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer **three** questions in all. Question **one** is compulsory

1. Referring to Ben Mtobwa's Dar es Salam By Night, discuss how the author depicts the vices associated with urbanization (24 marks)
2. Discuss the significance of Kamau wa Goro's title of his short story "when the Sun Goes Down" (23 marks)
3. With adequate examples, explain the role that Wanjala plays in the development of themes of moral decadence in Ngugi wa Thiong'o's Petals of Blood (23 marks)
4. Closely examine the contribution of the setting to the construction of themes in "The Town" by Eneriko Seruma (23 marks)
5. Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow:

In the City by Joseph G. Mutiga

You rub shoulder with robbers
 You halt to let grandmas pass
 You look back to indecent dresses,
 Mobs push you zigzag

All moving the lord knows where,
 Dressed in suits and tatters,

Bowties, tights, ochered sheets and earrings,
 All thinking of things to come
 Africa is in a state of opportunity,
 All look for easy chance
 Of self-upliftment and underserved promotion
 That often mirage further and further

Making frustrate
 Minds that should be content
 Without dreams of splendid days
 Taking promotion in place of business

And those with pounds
 Booze off with the willing
 Their unexpected earnings
 Ad cause social chaos
 At home and in the streets
 Or invest in big estates
 That arouses the envy
 Of the less endowed.

It is a time of opportunity,
 When one line makes a poet
 And a little acquaintance or chance
 Rockets one to the highest office.

But the peasant, the pillar of the nation,
Has only to cope with prices that shift
Like the waves that rock the ship
Carrying yellow maize to the city
The employed call out strikes
That only deplete the little funds
That may relieve the peasant

The elder brother keeps the younger in hunger
At home, if there is any,
The child plays with an empty bottle,
Cries for more milk
When the cost is daily on the rise
While incomes remain static
And the higher brackets are daily filled
By youths that will not retire
Within this century;

The child laughs gaily,
Displays its only four teeth
That shows it grows to eat
Unaware of all that shapes here decade.

- a) What images do the first four lines of the poem create in your mind? (2 marks)
 - b) With close reference to the poem, describe sort of people found in the city (2 marks)
 - c) According to the poem, what is the main pre-occupation of city dwellers (2 marks)
 - d) Describe the persona's attitude towards city-dwellers. How does the poem reveal this attitude? (2 marks)
 - e) The second stanza presents a contrast between two types city-dwellers. Who are they and what effect do their actions have on society (4 marks)
 - f) (i) What is the meaning of the third stanza? (2 marks)
(ii) What stylistic device has the poet used to bring out this meaning? (2 marks)
(ii) Identify and comment on the effectiveness of two other stylistic devices used in this poem (4marks)
 - g) Do you agree with the persona's reference to the peasant as 'the pillar of the nation? Give reasons for your answer (3 marks)
6. With close reference to Meja Mwang's Going Down River Road, discuss the representation of betrayal and disillusionment.