



GRETSA UNIVERSITY - THIKA

**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS
MAY - AUGUST 2018 SEMESTER**

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

COURSE CODE: LITT 201

COURSE TITLE: SURVEY OF AFRICAN LITERATURE

DATE: 7 AUGUST 2018

TIME: 8.00 AM – 11.00 AM

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. SECTION A IS **COMPULSORY**.
2. SECTION B: ANSWER ANY OTHER **THREE** QUESTIONS.
3. **DO NOT** WRITE ANYTHING ON THIS QUESTION PAPER AS IT WILL BE AN EXAM IRREGULARITY.
4. ALL ROUGH WORK SHOULD BE AT THE BACK OF YOUR ANSWER BOOKLET AND CROSSED OUT.

CAUTION: *All exam rooms are under CCTV surveillance during the examination period.*

SECTION A: COMPULSORY

Question One

A) Chinua Achebe's *A Man of the People*

a) Give the character traits for each of the following

1) Odili [4mks]

2) Chief Nanga [2marks]

b) Give two illustrations from the novel to show that corruption is rampant in the society depicted in the text. [4mks]

B) Mariama Ba's *So Long A Letter*.

a) Describe the character traits for each of the following

1) Ramatoulaye [4 marks]

2) Modou. [2marks]

b) Give two illustrations from the novel to show that religion contributes to the oppression of women in society. [4 marks]

C) Ngugi wa Thiongo's *The River Between*

a) Describe the character traits for each of the following

1) Waiyaki. [4 marks]

2) Kamau. [2 marks]

b) Briefly discuss how colonialism is portrayed in the novel.

D) Alex Laguma's *A Walk in the Night*.

a) Briefly describe one violent incident depicted in the story. [4 marks]

b) Describe the character traits for each of the following:

1) Constable Raalt. [4 marks]

2) Michael Adonis. [2 marks]

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY THREE QUESTIONS

Question Two

a) The independent African states are faced by numerous challenges during the post-colonial period. Discuss the relevance of this statement basing your argument on Chinua Achebe's novel *A Man of the People*. [12 marks]

b) Discuss the use of Imagery in Chinua Achebe's novel *A Man of the People*. Draw your illustrations from the novel. [8 marks]

Question three

- a) “Mariama Ba uses the epistolary mode of writing to effectively expose the problems that women experience in any patriarchal society.” Validate this statement referring closely to Mariama Ba’s novel *So long A Letter*. [15 marks]
- b) Why do you think Mariama Ba chooses the epistolary mode of writing? [5 marks]

Question Four

- a) Discuss the forms of education exposed in Ngugi’s novel *The River Between* and how education contributes to social empowerment. [10marks]
- b) Discuss the use of symbolism in the novel *the River Between*. [10 marks]

Question five

- a) Okot P’ Bitek uses imagery extensively as a stylistic device in his oral poem *Song of Lawino*. Drawing ample illustrations from the oral poem, discuss how the author utilizes imagery to describe the beauty of African culture. [14 marks]
- b) Why does Okot P’ Bitek use imagery extensively in the oral poem *Song of Lawino*. [6 marks]

Question six

- a) “The policy of apartheid caused untold suffering to the black people in South Africa.” Discuss the truth in this assertion referring closely to Alex Laguma’s *A Walk in the Night*. [12 marks]
- b) Discuss how the problem of unemployment has affected the lives of the characters in Laguma’s *A Walk in the Night*. [8 marks]

Question seven

- a) Discuss the use of symbolism in Francis Imbuga’s play, *The Burning of Rags* and show how effectively the device has been used. [10 marks]
- b) Discuss the ways in which all the characters in the play *The Burning of Rags*. Are connected to Yona. [10 marks]