



GRETSA UNIVERSITY - THIKA

SPECIAL/SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS FOR JANUARY-APRIL 2025 SEMESTER

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

COURSE CODE: LITT 303

COURSE TITLE: LITERARY CRITICISM

DATE: JUNE 2025

TIME: 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. SECTION A IS **COMPULSORY**.
2. SECTION B: ANSWER ANY OTHER **TWO** 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) Describe literary criticism as a gentle war. **[5marks]**
- b) Demonstrate why the pragmatic type of literary criticism is considered to be slightly superior to other forms of literary criticism. **[5 marks]**
- c) Discuss the benefits a learner gains through the study of literary criticism. **[10 marks]**
- d) Take note that the purpose of literary criticism is to enrich the reader's understanding of the literary work. Explain the import of this statement. **[10marks]**

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS

Question Two

- a) Explain the technical difference between critiquing and criticising a literary work. **[5 marks]**
- b) Explain why the Feminist literary criticism has been gaining ground in the recent past. **[5 marks]**

Question three

Demonstrate the reasons that compelled the Common Wealth Literature Prize for African region in Gaborone, Botswana to award it to Margaret Ogala for *The River and the Source*.

[20 marks]

Question Four

- a) Outline the elements of a good piece of literature. **[5 marks]**
- b) Citing examples from Shakespeare's works, explain why a literary work may never grow old. **[10 marks]**

Question five

In reference to *A Grain of Wheat* by Ngugi wa Thiong'o, explain the functions of stylistic devices in a literary work.

[20 marks]