



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL  
ACADEMICS, RESEARCH AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

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## UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

### 2019/2020 ACADEMIC YEAR

FIRST YEAR FIRST SEMESTER REGULAR EXAMINATION

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

**COURSE CODE: LIT 111**

**COURSE TITLE: THEMES IN EAST AFRICAN LITERATURE**

**DATE: 9<sup>TH</sup> December, 2019**

**TIME: 9.00AM- 12.00 PM**

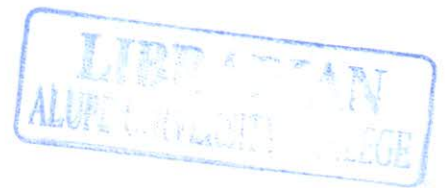
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### INSTRUCTION TO CANDIDATES

- SEE INSIDE

**THIS PAPER CONSISTS OF 3 PRINTED PAGES**

**PLEASE TURN OVER**



**LIT 111: THEMES IN EAST AFRICAN LITERATURE**

**STREAM: BED (Arts)**

**DURATION: 3 Hours**

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**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- i. Answer Question **ONE** and any other **TWO** questions.
- ii. Do not write on the question paper.
- iii. Avoid using the same text to answer more than one question

**Question One (Compulsory)**

- a) East African Literature has been shaped by the socio historical experiences of the people of the region. Using specific illustrations from two texts covered in this course, explore the phases under which these experiences are captured in the East African Literary works.  
(20 Marks)
- b) With illustrations from any TWO texts covered in this course, critically analyze the influence of oral tradition on the written East African literary works.  
(10 Marks)

**Question Two**

**EITHER**

‘Borrowing of the Western Culture by Africans is one of main concerns of East African writers’. Discuss any FIVE points that justify this statement with illustrations from either “Okot P’Bitek’s *Song of Lawino* or any other literary text covered in this course. (20 Marks)

**OR**

“Okot P’Bitek’s *Song of Lawino* is a serious criticism against cultural borrowing”. Discuss any five points that justify this statement. (20 Marks)

**Question Three**

Discuss the any FOUR effects of urbanization in either Meja Mwangi’s *Kill me Quick* or Ben Mtobwa’s *Dar Es Salaam by Night*. (20 Marks)

**Question Four**

To the people of East Africa, 'Uhuru' (Independence) was an elusive dream. With this in mind, read the poem below and critically analyze the poet's presentation of the disillusionment that characterised independence in the East African states. (20 Marks)

Issai Mashingo Apr 2014

**THE RAINS IN RWANDA**

I remember the rains that day,  
 A shower of hate that won't go away,  
 The day seven of the year ninety four,  
 When pain suddenly opened the door,  
 And nothing was ever going to be the same anymore,  
 With machetes and guns they marched,  
 Aiming for our limbs to detach,  
 Sworn they did that no INYENZI would escape their grasp,  
 They swore that all would experience their wrath,  
 Genocide it was called but the truth not told,  
 The rains struck hard smell of rotting flesh,  
 Cries from a distance heard but ignored,  
 No one would even dare talk or whisper,  
 \*\*\*\* the cockroaches was the message from the speaker,  
 It was the rainy season the beginning of a massacre,  
 Women and children are alienated from their land,  
 Refugees in camps away from their land,  
 The African holocaust had began in Rwanda,  
 It took a while for the world to ponder,  
 The ones who had the power to stop it kept quiet,  
 They gave neither reason nor excuse for their silence,  
 They waited until we all lost our patience,  
 It was the rains in Rwanda the day of mourning,  
 It was the season to prepare for farming,  
 But I can bet the world saw it coming,  
 But none gave a \*\*\*\* from the beginning,  
 And so began the killing,  
 Brothers and sisters turned enemy,  
 Neighbors turned into strangers,  
 \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* mutilation humiliation torture,  
 Tribal hatred fueled by the west,  
 When will Africa come to rest?  
 And understand that we are one race,  
 One love one place one earth,  
 Let's have love and peace,

(20 Marks)

**Question Five**

Explore the allegorical relevance of either Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye's *Coming to Birth* or any other novel covered in this course, to the post independent East African Nations. (20 Marks)

**Or**

Critically evaluate any FOUR contemporary issues presented by Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye in *Chira*. (20 Marks)

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