



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
ACADEMICS, RESEARCH AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

2021/2022 ACADEMIC YEAR

SECOND YEAR SECOND SEMESTER REGULAR EXAMINATION

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF
EDUCATION (ARTS)

COURSE CODE: LIT 221

COURSE TITLE: EAST AFRICAN ORAL LITERATURE

DATE: 30TH MAY, 2022

TIME: 2.00PM – 5.00PM

INSTRUCTION TO CANDIDATES

- SEE INSIDE

THIS PAPER CONSISTS OF FOUR PRINTED PAGES

PLEASE TURN OVER

LIT 221: EAST AFRICAN ORAL LITERATURE**STREAM: BED (Arts)****DURATION: 3 Hours****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

- a. Define the term Oral Literature. (2 Marks)
- b. List any FIVE functions of Oral Literature in East Africa. (5 Marks)
- c. With reference to the THREE characteristic features of Orality, critically analyze how orality is the medium that distinguishes oral literature from written literature. (9 Marks)
- d. Trace the historical development of Oral Literature in East Africa. (12 Marks)

Question Two

Read the story below and answer the questions that follow

ABUNUWASI AND THE SUFURIA

Once upon a time there lived a man by the name Abunuwasi. He was known for his intelligence and cunningness. He was a wealthy man with a thousand herd of cattle, sheep, goats and camels. One day he left with his stock far East from his homestead. While in the evacuation, he had no means to water his stocks. By good luck he discovered another home two kilometres away, he went to the home and met there a old man who lived with his wife. They had a talk and they became friends. They grazed the animals together and shared everything. Abunuwasi borrowed the old man a Sufuria to water his animals, the old man trusted him and gave him his sufuria. Abunuwasi went with the sufuria and returned it the next day. It became a routine of borrowing and returning the sufuria since he had no other means to water his animals. With time, it became tiresome to trek all the way to the old man's home to borrow the sufuria. One day, as he was returning the sufuria to the old man, an idea came to his mind. He said "Huh! it is so tiring, I will have to steal this sufuria from you old man." This seemed to motivate him. He went back with the sufuria to his home instead of returning it back.

After along thought he had a plan. The following day he returned the sufuria and included a small sufuria in it. When the owner received his sufuria, he realized a small sufuria was inside his big sufuria. He asked Abunuwasi "what is the meaning of this?" "Your sufuria gave birth" Abunuwasi replied. The old man was surprised, he hugged him saying, "I knew you're good friend. Thank you, my friend".

Abunuwasi returned home knowing that his plan was almost to be successful. A week later, he went back the old man to borrow the sufuria again to water his animals. When the old man saw him at a far distance, he ran towards him to welcome him. He said, " how are you my good friend?" "I am good, my friend, I came to borrow the sufuria." The old ran to his house and brought him the sufuria and said to him, " I hope it will bring another small one." "Yes" Abunuwasi said while laughing. Abunuwasi went back to

water his animals with the sufuria. This time round, he didn't return the sufuria as usual.

Two months later, the old man came looking for Abunuwasi to ask for his sufuria. The old man had no clue of the trick that Abunuwasi had plotted. As the old man approached Abunuwasi's temporary home, he started shouting "Where is my sufuria, young man?". Abunuwasi was shocked, for the sufuria was inside the house and the old man would spot it. He ran into the house and hid it. When the old man entered the house, he met him crying pretentiously. 'What's not the issue, my friend'. "It's dead." Abunuwasi said. "what's dead?" the old man asked curiously. "The sufuria." Abunuwasi replied. The old man was shocked about the death of his sufuria. He now realized the trick that Abunuwasi had plotted when he brought him his sufuria with the small sufuria. The old man felt broke for his foolishness, he went to the Sultan who was the judge and reported the whole incident.

The Sultan ordered his men to arrest Abunuwasi for stealing the old man's Sufuria. The sultan sat at his palace to listen to their case. Abunuwasi argued out the case by saying that he was not guilty for stealing the old man sufuria. He claimed that it died out of serious labour pain when giving birth. The whole council was astonished by the giving birth of a sufuria. Abunuwasi continued by saying that two months before, he had taken the sufuria back to the old man with a young one and the old man had accepted the offer. Hence, he said everything that can give birth can die at whatever time. Sultan released Abunuwasi and acknowledged him for his trickery. The old man lost his sufuria out of his foolishness. If he would have been clever, he would not have accepted the small sufuria which Abunuwasi gave claiming that his sufuria had given birth.

- a. Identify the type of society depicted in the above story. Give reasons for your identification. (5 Marks)
- b. Classify the above narrative. (3 Marks)
- c. Explore the social economic activities practiced in this society. (12 Marks)

Question Four

- a. Songs or Oral poetry has various sub genres according to their function in society. With this in mind, critically analyse the purpose of songs under the following rites of passage:
 - i. Birth (2 Marks)
 - ii. Initiation (2 Marks)
 - iii. Marriage (2 Marks)
 - iv. Death (2 Marks)
- b. With specific examples, explain any ONE similarities and Differences between
 - i. Riddles and Proverbs
 - ii. Puns and Tongue Twisters (4 Marks)
- c. Identify the most suitable performer and audience for each of the above genres and give reasons for your answer. (4 Marks)
- d. Outline any four ways of classifying riddles. (4 Marks)

Question Five

- a. Explore any FOUR benefits of field work in Oral Literature. (4Marks)
- b. Explain any FOUR challenges a student of oral literature may face during field work. (8Marks)
- c. Describe any FOUR methods that student of Oral Literature may use to collect oral Literature material from the field. (8marks)