



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL  
ACADEMICS, RESEARCH AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

---

## UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

### 2019/2020 ACADEMIC YEAR

FIRST YEAR SECOND SEMESTER MAIN EXAMINATION

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

**COURSE CODE: LIT 121**

**COURSE TITLE: CLASSICAL LITERARY THEORY**

**DATE: 14<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2020**

**TIME: 9.00AM-12.00 NOON**

---

### INSTRUCTION TO CANDIDATES

- SEE INSIDE

**THIS PAPER CONSISTS OF TWO PRINTED PAGES PLEASE TURN OVER**



**REGULAR – MAIN EXAM**

**LIT 121: CLASSICAL LITERARY THEORY**

**STREAM: BED (Arts)**

**DURATION: 3 Hours**

---

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

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

**Question One**

- a. Briefly explain the link between literary theory and literary criticism. (10 Marks)
- b. Classical Literary Theory is Mimetic in nature, explain. (4Marks)
- c. Literary theories are purposeful as they cannot be made in a vacuum and need a text to arrive at the principles. With reference to this fact, briefly explain any **EIGHT** functions of Literary theory. (16Marks)

**Question Two**

Critically evaluate the value and significance of Plato's criticism in literature. (20 Marks)

**Question Three**

- a. Briefly explain Aristotle's definition and function of tragedy. (5 Marks)
- b. Identify and briefly explain the **THREE** kinds of plot according to Aristotle. (6Marks)
- c. Sophocles *Oedipus the King* is a tragic play. Discuss. (9 Marks)

**Question Four**

According to Longinus, the word sublime means 'elevation' or 'loftiness', all that raises style above the ordinary and gives to it distinction in its widest and truest sense. With this in mind, briefly discuss the **FIVE** sources of this distinction, loftiness and sublimity. (20 Marks)

**Question Five**

According to Horace, 'Poetry is Sweet and useful'. Explain. (20Marks)