

The
Management
University
of Africa



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UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION ARTS

LIT 115: THEORY AND HISTORY OF LITERATURE

DATE: 30TH MARCH 2026

DURATION: 2 HOURS

MAXIMUM MARKS: 70

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Write your registration number on the answer booklet.
2. **DO NOT** write on this question paper.
3. This paper contains **SIX (6)** questions.
4. Question **ONE** is compulsory.
5. Answer any other **THREE** questions.
6. Question **ONE** carries **25 MARKS** and the rest carry **15 MARKS** each.
7. **Write all your answers in the Examination answer booklet provided.**

QUESTION ONE

Read the Case Study below carefully and answer the questions that follow:

AFRICAN LITERATURE

African literature has been instrumental in shedding light on the historical injustices and cultural disruptions caused by colonialism. It has also played a crucial role in affirming the significance of indigenous cultures, fostering cultural pride, and contributing to the ongoing efforts of cultural revitalization in postcolonial Africa. African literature demonstrates the dynamism and diversity of the continent's literary output. African writers continue to respond to the ever-changing social, political, and cultural landscapes, enriching the world of literature and offering valuable insights into the African experience. Language and hybridity in African literature capture the diverse linguistic and cultural landscapes of the continent.

African writers navigate between different languages, cultures, and literary traditions, creating a unique and vibrant literary tapestry that speaks to the complexities of African identities and experiences. The role of education in African literature reflects the broader significance of education in shaping African societies and identities. It serves as a lens through which writers explore historical, social, and cultural complexities, and it highlights the transformative power of education in the context of Africa's colonial past and postcolonial present.

The revival of oral tradition in African literature not only preserves and celebrates cultural heritage but also challenges the dominant narrative forms of Western literature. It allows African writers to tell stories from their own perspectives, using modes of expression that are deeply rooted in their cultural contexts. Writers like Chinua Achebe, Wole Soyinka, Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, Amos Tutuola, and many others have played significant roles in the revival of oral tradition within African literature. Their works have inspired subsequent generations of writers to continue drawing on oral tradition as a powerful means of storytelling and cultural reclamation. Prominent postcolonial African writers include Chinua Achebe (Nigeria), Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o (Kenya), Wole Soyinka (Nigeria), Mariama Bâ (Senegal), Tsitsi Dangarembga (Zimbabwe), Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (Nigeria), and many

others. Their works have played a pivotal role in shaping the discourse on African identity, history, and the postcolonial condition

Required:

- a) Discuss the theory of African Literature in the case study (5 marks)
- b) Analyse the effects of colonialism on African Literature according to the case study (8 marks)
- c) Explain the role of African writers in shaping the global understanding of African identity and history (7 marks)
- d) Describe how postcolonial African writers use literature to respond to contemporary issues (5 marks)

QUESTION TWO

Plato's moral critique and emphasis on truth have influenced subsequent literary theory, while Aristotle's analysis of tragedy and epic, along with his concepts of mimesis and catharsis, and continue to be relevant to literary criticism today. Critique Plato and Aristotle's ideas on Literature using any literary text studied in this course (15 marks)

QUESTION THREE

Waiyaki, the protagonist, of the novel *The River Between*, embodies the central psychological tension in the novel.

Discuss drawing from;

- i. Freudian psychoanalytic frameworks (8 marks)
- ii. Jungian psychoanalytic frameworks (7 marks)

QUESTION FOUR

Citing literary texts studied in this course, explain the below theories

- i. Realism **(8 marks)**
- ii. Romanticism **(7 marks)**

QUESTION FIVE

- a. Examine the history and development of Literature from classical times to the present **(10 marks)**
- b. Describe the relationship of theory of literature and history of literature **(5 marks)**

QUESTION SIX

Explore how the theory of evolution connects to literature and analyse the ways in which the theory has shaped literary themes, characters, narratives, and critical interpretations. **(15 marks)**