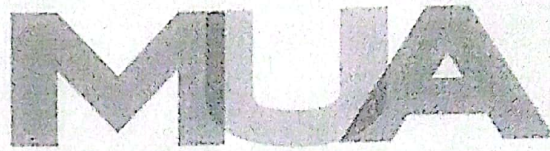


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UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION ARTS

LIT 402 : SURVEY OF AFRICAN LITERATURE

DATE: 4TH APRIL 2024

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

SURVEY OF AFRICAN LITERATURE

The poems in the anthology of *When Bullets Begin to Flower* by Margaret Dickinson revolve around the negative effects that colonialism has impacted on the social lives of the colonized people. The themes in this anthology revolve around the problems faced by colonized people. With this in mind, answer the following questions;

- a) Briefly expound on the themes of poverty and exploitation (10 marks)
- b) Discuss on the synopsis of the poem "Attention" by Mindelense (10 marks)
- c) Highlight the theme of hope as discussed in the poem "Attention" by Mindelense (5 marks).

QUESTION TWO

- a) Oral literature is critical for inculcating the foundation of literature in learners. With relevant examples, assess the importance of studying oral literature (5 marks)
- b) Oral poetry covers the whole spectrum of life from birth to death. Differentiate between the following categories of oral poetry (10 marks)
 - a) War poetry
 - b) Work songs
 - c) Love songs
 - d) Children's poems

QUESTION THREE

- a) In reference to *The Burning of Rags*, by Francis Imbuga, assess the relevance of the statement "superstition cannot be separated from any African culture and it is what keeps the people moving" (10 marks)

- b) With relevant examples from *The Burning of Rags*, expound on the theme of patriarchal authority (5 marks)

QUESTION FOUR

- a) Examine the theme of violence in *A Walk in the Night* by Alex La Guma (10 marks)
- b) Discuss the use of language in the novel *A Walk in the Night* by Alex La Guma (5 marks)

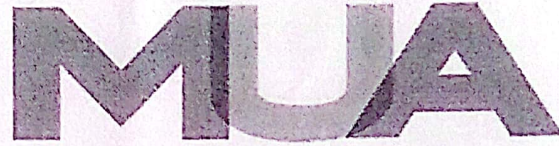
QUESTION FIVE

- a) Assess the significance of the use of the style of the diary, journal and letter in *So Long a Letter* - Mariama Ba (5 marks)
- b) Examine the theme of Religion in *So Long a Letter* - Mariama Ba (10 marks)

QUESTION SIX

- a) Examine the theme of immorality as employed in Chinua Achebe's novel *A Man of the People* (5 marks)
- b) Differentiate between Chief Nanga and Maxwell as depicted in Chinua Achebe's novel *A Man of the People* (10 marks)

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LIT 402: SURVEY OF AFRICAN LITERATURE

DATE: 27TH MARCH 2025

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 carefully and answer the questions that follow:

SURVEY OF AFRICAN LITERATURE

The *Burning of Rags* was first performed in 1971 under the title "Sons and Parents" and published in 1973 under the title *The Married Bachelor*. The different titles only emphasize the different aspects of the theme of cultural clash between modernism and traditionalism.

- a) With relevant examples, examine the theme of tradition in *The Burning of Rags* by Francis Imbuga **(10 Marks)**
- b) Style is a distinctive manner of doing, performing or presenting something. With examples, appraise the following stylistic devices used in the in *The Burning of Rags* by Francis Imbuga **(10 Marks)**
 - i. Symbolism
 - ii. Imagery
 - iii. Flashback
 - iv. Proverbs
- c) With relevant examples, list other aspects of tradition highlighted in *The Burning of Rags* **(5 Marks)**

QUESTION TWO

- a) With relevant examples, identify and discuss the theme of corruption in the novel *A Man of the People* by Chinua Achebe **(10 Marks)**
- b) Illustrate the characterization of the main character (Odili, Nanga and Max) in *A Man of the People* by Chinua Achebe **(5 Marks)**

QUESTION THREE

- a) With relevant examples from *The Burning of Rags*, assess the role played by women in Agala'a family (10 Marks)
- b) With relevant examples from *The Burning of Rags*, compare and contrast Agala and Bandi (5 Marks)

QUESTION FOUR

- a) Examine the theme of Apartheid and Capitalism in *A Walk in the Night* by Alex La Guma (10 Marks)
- b) Discuss symbolism as an aspect of style in *A Walk in the Night* by Alex La Guma (5 Marks)

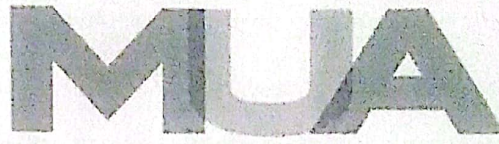
QUESTION FIVE

- a) Assess the characteristics of Ramatoulaye in *So Long a Letter* - Mariama Ba (10 Marks)
- b) Examine the theme of Feminism in *So Long a Letter* - Mariama Ba (5 Marks)

QUESTION SIX

- a) Examine the following themes as used in *When Bullets Begin to Flower* by Margaret Dickinson (10 Marks)
- i. Poverty
 - ii. Exploitation
 - iii. Brutality
 - iv. Family disintegration
- b) Differentiate between myths and legends in oral literature (5 Marks)

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LIT 402 : SURVEY OF AFRICAN LITARATURE DATE:

DATE: 27TH APRIL 2025

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QUESTION ONE

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

African literature is a rich and diverse field that encompasses both traditional oral and modern written works. It reflects the continent's complex history, cultural diversity, and the impact of colonialism. African literature is a diverse body of work deeply rooted in oral storytelling traditions, encompassing both traditional oral narratives and written works in various African languages and European languages. African literature is a literature that sheds light on African lifestyles and experiences mostly told by people of African descent or westerners who are believed to have gathered adequate information about Africa and Africans.

African writers create works "which are peculiarly African and yet set in the modern world. Question like 'if African literature should necessarily be written by Africans, if it had to depict African experience and in what language it had to be written have been posed. A popular belief of European colonizers and some literary critics have regarded African literature as one that needs a touch of western language, style and form to be appreciated. However, many African writers have reacted against this western criticism and notion of African literary works. Household names like Achebe, Nkrumah, Nyerere, Sedar Senghor and others have made African literature possible to relate African socio-political, cultural, religious ideologies, and identities stressing their importance in ordering a wholesome cohesive African society. From the period of culture and religious European contacts to pre-independent emancipation struggles in Africa, there appears to be some impressive awakening of the consciousness of the relevance of preserving Africa's unique culture, religion, language, political systems which have played important role in the peaceful, striving and successful outlook it has worn years before colonization and westernization.

Thus, African literature is a vital tool in the reconstruction of African identity in a global community with a view to foregrounding important African philosophies, cultures, unique languages and political cum economic structures and in the process

combat some prejudiced colonial narratives about Africa. Put differently, African literature is a literature of Africans, by Africans and for Africans.

Required:

- a) You are an expert in curriculum designing. Enumerate five reasons why students in institutions of higher learning should be encouraged to pursue a course in African literature. (10 marks)
- b) As an expert elaborate on three peculiarly African thematic concerns of literature from Africa that your learners are likely to come across (6 marks)
- c) Analyze three influences of colonialism on literature from Africa (9marks)

QUESTION TWO

In *Purple Hibiscus*, Chimamanda Ngozie tells her story through the eyes of a 15-year-old Kambili Achike, offering a unique perspective of women's life in patriarchal African countries in the post independent era.

- a) Using three examples from the text, defend the following statement, "Chimamanda Ngozie's *Purple Hibiscus* is a masterpiece of feminism at its best". (9 marks)
- b) Using three examples, assess the impact of symbolism as used by Chimamanda Ngozie in *Purple Hibiscus*. (6 marks)

QUESTION THREE

- a) Chinua Achebe's Novel *Things Fall Apart* is an embodiment of glorification of black aesthetics. Defend this statement (6 Marks)
- b) Illustrate the appropriateness of the title *Things Fall Apart*. (9 marks)

QUESTION FOUR

- a) The patriarchal man trying to muffle women's voice has no place in the 21st century. Using Francis Imbuga's Play *Aminata*, justify this statement. (9 marks)
- b) Analyse two thematic concern showcased by Francis Imbuga in his play, *Aminata*. (6 marks)

QUESTION FIVE

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o's contributions as a writer in exile are multifaceted and profound.

- a) Analyse his critique of neo-colonialism as captured in his novel, *Petals of Blood*. (9marks)
- b) Evaluate the use of language by Ngugi wa Thiong'o as a literary vehicle to carry his post-colonial message in his novel, *Petals of Blood*. (6marks)

QUESTION SIX

Religion can be a heavy yoke on the back of the African woman.

- a) Using Maria Ma Ba's, *So long a letter*, analyse the truth in this statement. (9 marks)
- b) Using any text studied in this course assess three thematic concerns of the post-colonial African writers (6 marks)