

The
Management
University
of Africa



Sponsored by the Kenya Institute of Management

UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION (SOE)

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION ARTS

LIT 401 : MODERN EUROPEAN LITERATURE

DATE: 30TH JULY 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:

In a very little while the animals had destroyed everything that reminded them of Mr. Jones. Napoleon then led them back to the store-shed and served out a double ration of corn to everybody, with two biscuits for each dog. Then they sang "Beasts of England" from end to end seven times running, and after that they settled down for the night and slept as they had never slept before. But they woke at dawn as usual, and suddenly remembering the glorious thing that had happened, they all raced out into the pasture together. A little way down the pasture there was a knoll that commanded a view of most of the farm. The animals rushed to the top of it and gazed round them in the clear morning light. Yes, it was theirs—everything that they could see was theirs!

In the ecstasy of that thought they gamboled round and round, they hurled themselves into the air in great leaps of excitement. They rolled in the dew, they cropped mouthfuls of the sweet summer grass, and they kicked up clods of the black earth and snuffed its rich scent. Then they made a tour of inspection of the whole farm and surveyed with speechless admiration the plough land, the hayfield, the orchard, the pool, the spinney. It was as though they had never seen these things before, and even now they could hardly believe that it was all their own. Then they filed back to the farm buildings and halted in silence outside the door of the farmhouse. That was theirs too, but they were frightened to go inside.

After a moment, however, Snowball and Napoleon butted the door open with their shoulders and the animals entered in single file, walking with the utmost care for fear of disturbing anything. They tiptoed from room to room, afraid to speak above a whisper and gazing with a kind of awe at the unbelievable luxury, at the beds with their feather mattresses, the looking glasses, the horsehair sofa, the Brussels carpet, the lithograph of Queen Victoria over the drawing-room mantelpiece. They were just

coming down the stairs when Mollie was discovered to be missing. Going back, the others found that she had remained behind in the best bedroom. She had taken a piece of blue ribbon from Mrs. Jones's dressing-table, and was holding it against her shoulder and admiring herself in the glass in a very foolish manner. The others reproached her sharply, and they went outside. Some hams hanging in the kitchen were taken out for burial, and the barrel of beer in the scullery was stove in with a kick from Boxer's hoof, otherwise nothing in the house was touched.

All through that summer the work of the farm went like clockwork and they met with many difficulties—for instance, later in the year, when they harvested the corn, they had to tread it out in the ancient style and blow away the chaff with their breath, since the farm possessed no threshing machine—but the pigs with their cleverness and Boxer with his tremendous muscles always pulled them through. Boxer was the admiration of everybody. He had been a hard worker even in Jones's time, but now he seemed more like three horses than one; there were days when the entire work of the farm seemed to rest on his mighty shoulders. Nobody stole, nobody grumbled over his rations, the quarrelling and biting and jealousy which had been normal features of life in the old days had almost disappeared. Nobody shirked—or almost nobody. Mollie, it was true, was not good at getting up in the mornings, and had a way of leaving work early on the ground that there was a stone in her hoof. But, the behavior of the cat was somewhat peculiar. It was soon noticed that when there was work to be done the cat could never be found. She would vanish for hours on end, and then reappear at meal-times, or in the evening after work was over, as though nothing had happened. But she always made such excellent excuses, and purred so affectionately, that it was impossible not to believe in her good intentions. Old Benjamin, the donkey, seemed quite unchanged since the Rebellion. He did his work in the same slow obstinate way as he had done it in Jones's time, never shirking and never volunteering for extra work either.

Required:

- a) Using two examples, describe how the author has presented realism in the contemporary European society.
(4 marks)
- b) Examine three thematic concerns emanating from this excerpt.
(6 marks)
- c) Evaluate two literary devices that have been used by the author to pass his message.
(4 marks)
- d) Assess the absurdity of human nature as used to pass his message.
(6 marks)
- e) Analyze how the crisis in contemporary Europe has been captured in this excerpt.
(5 marks)

QUESTION TWO

- a) Using three examples from any novel, studied in this course, assess how the author presents realism.
(9 marks)
- b) Analyze three factors that have led to the growth and spread of Modern European literature.
(6 marks)

QUESTION THREE

- a) Modernism as captured in Modern European literature has presented the effects of modern life and crisis. Using any text studied in this course, defend this statement.
(9 marks)
- b) Examine three features modern European literature.
(6 marks)

QUESTION FOUR

- a) Modern European literature has through Existentialism produced some works which are masterpieces of absurdity of human nature.

Using examples from any relevant text defend this statement.

(9 marks)

- b)** Analyse two thematic concern showcased by such an author in his/her work.

(6 marks)

QUESTION FIVE

- a)** Questioning of authority and grand narratives is the fuel that drives post-modernist writers. Based on any text studied in this course asses the truth in this statement

(9 marks)

- b)** Evaluate three features of Surrealism.

(6 marks)

QUESTION SIX

- a)** Evaluate three thematic concerns of the contemporary Modern European writers.

(9 marks)

- b)** Literary devices are the vehicles through which authors carry their message to their intended audiences. Examine three of such vehicles used in any piece of drama studied in this course.

(6 marks)