

The
Management
University
of Africa



Sponsored by the Kenya Institute of Management

UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION ARTS

LIT 401 : MODERN EUROPEAN LITERATURE

DATE: 8TH APRIL 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:

Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way. Everything was in confusion in the Oblonskys' house. The wife had discovered that the husband was carrying on an intrigue with a French girl, who had been a governess in their family, and she had announced to her husband that she could not go on living in the same house with him. This position of affairs had now lasted three days, and not only the husband and wife themselves, but all the members of their family and household, were painfully conscious of it.

Every person in the house felt that there was no sense in their living together, and that the stray people brought together by chance in any inn had more in common with one another than they, the members of the family and household of the Oblonskys. The wife did not leave her own room, the husband had not been at home for three days. The children ran wild all over the house; the English governess quarreled with the housekeeper, and wrote to a friend asking her to look out for a new situation for her; the man-cook had walked off the day before just at dinner time; the kitchen-maid, and the coachman had given warning.

Three days after the quarrel, Prince Stepan Arkadyevitch Oblonsky Stivaas he was called in the fashionable world woke up at his usual hour, that is, at eight o'clock in the morning, not in his wife's bedroom, but on the leather-covered sofa in his study. He turned over his stout, well-cared-for person on the springy sofa, as though he would sink into a long sleep again; he vigorously embraced the pillow on the other side and buried his face in it; but all at once he jumped up, sat up on the sofa, and opened his eyes. "Yes, yes, how was it now?" he thought, going over his dream. "Now, how was it? To be sure! Alabin was giving a dinner at Darmstadt; no, not Darmstadt, but something American. Yes, but then, Darmstadt was in America. Yes, Alabin was giving a dinner on glass tables, and the tables sang, *Il mio tesoro*—not *Il mio tesoro* though, but something better, and there were some sort of little decanters on the table, and they were women, too," he remembered. Stepan Arkadyevitch's eyes twinkled gaily, and he pondered with a smile.

"Yes, it was nice, very nice. There was a great deal more that was delightful, only there's no putting it into words, or even expressing it in one's thoughts awake." And thereupon he suddenly remembered that he was not sleeping in his wife's room, but in his study, and why: the smile vanished from his face, he knitted his brows."Ah, ah, ah! Oo!..." he muttered, recalling everything that had happened.

And again every detail of his quarrel with his wife was present to his imagination, all the hopelessness of his position, and worst of all, his own fault."Yes, she won't forgive me, and she can't forgive me. And the most awful thing about it is that it's all my fault—all my fault, though I'm not to blame. That's the point of the whole situation," he reflected. "Oh, oh, oh!" he kept repeating in despair, as he remembered the acutely painful sensations caused him by this quarrel.

She, his Dolly, forever fussing and worrying over household details, and limited in her ideas, as he considered, was sitting perfectly still with the letter in her hand, looking at him with an expression of horror, despair, and indignation."What's this? this?" she asked, pointing to the letter. And at this recollection, Stepan Arkadyevitch, as is so often the case, was not so much annoyed at the fact itself as at the way in which he had met his wife's words."But what's to be done? What's to be done?" he said to himself in despair, and found no answer.

Required:

- a) Every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way. Based on this excerpt describe the truth in the statement. **(3 marks)**
- b) Elaborate three consequences of the unhappiness in this family. **(6 marks)**
- c) Evaluate three literary devices that have been used by the author. **(6 marks)**
- d) Analyze the role of women as presented by the author. **(4 marks)**
- e) Describe three character traits of Stepan Arkadyevitch. **(6 marks)**

QUESTION TWO

- a) Dadaism embraced chaos as a means to disrupt the status quo. Evaluate the truth in this statement basing your argument any text studied in this course. **(9 marks)**

- b) Illustrate how some of the characters capture in some of the text studied in this course emphasize on the irrationality of the masses. **(6 marks)**

QUESTION THREE

- a) Majority of Modern European literature authors presents an expose on the limitations and hypocrisies of the upper class in their works. Using any text studied in this course defend this statement. **(9 marks)**
- b) Describe three literary devices that the author mentioned above uses to pass his/her message to the intended audiences. **(6 marks)**

QUESTION FOUR

- a) The social and economic environments of various characters determine their fate as projected by naturalism. Using three examples from any novel studied in this course, evaluate the truth in this statement. **(9 marks)**
- b) To pass his message to his intended audience every literary artist invests in literary devices. Using three examples, asses this statement based on any text studied in this course. **(6 marks)**

QUESTION FIVE

- a) The protagonist in some works of art on Modern European literature are an embodiment of existentialism. Justify this statement. **(9 marks)**
- b) Analyse the use of the stream of consciousness as used in any text studied in this course. **(6 marks)**

QUESTION SIX

- a) All happy families are alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way" Leo Tolstoy. Using any text studied in this course, evaluate the truth in this statement. **(9 marks)**
- b) 'Life is a struggle against indifferent forces; endings are often bleak'. Using any text studied in this course illustrate the truth in this naturalism belief. **(6 marks)**