



KISII UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

SPECIAL/SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS
FIRST YEAR EXAMINATION FOR THE AWARD OF
THE BACHELORS OF ARTS IN LITERATURE, FILM STUDIES AND
THEATRE ARTS
SECOND SEMESTER 2024/2025
(AUGUST, 2025)

LITT 111: INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY CRITICISM

STREAM: Y1 S2

TIME: 2 HOURS

DAY: TUESDAY, 12.00 – 2.00 P M

DATE: 05/08/2025

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Do not write anything on this question paper.***
- 2. Answer Question Compulsory One and Any Other TWO Questions.***

QUESTIONS:

Q1.A) Define the following terms and expressions as used in Literary criticism
(20marks)

- Fable
- Allegory
- Protagonist
- Conflict
- Plot.

B) Define the terms; Literature and Literary criticism and draw the relationship that exist between the two (10 marks)

Q2.With relevant literary examples, outline the process of literary criticism (20marks)

Q3.With close reference to Jonathan Kariara's poem 'Grass will Grow', discuss the poet's use of language and show how it brings out the meaning in the poem. (20 marks)

Grass will grow

*If you should take my child Lord
Give my hands strength to dig his grave
cover him with earth
Lord send a little rain
For grass will grow*

*If my house should burn down
So that the ashes sting the nostrils
Making the eyes weep
Then Lord send a little rain
For grass will grow*

*But Lord do not send me
Madness
I ask for tears
Do not send me moon hard madness
To lodge snug in my skull
I would you sent me hordes of horses
Gallop
Crushing
But do not break
The yolk of the moon on me.*

- Jonathan Kariara

With close reference to at least ONE literary work you have studied in this course, discuss the importance of figurative language in literature. (20 marks)

Q4. Attempt a critical discussion of the major genres of literature highlighting their similarities and also their differences. (20 marks)

Q5. Discuss the role and function of literary criticism in the study of literature. (20 marks)