


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 123: READING AND INTERPRETATION OF LITERATURE

STREAM: Y1 S2

TIME: 2 HOURS

DAY: TUESDAY, 12.00 – 2.00 P M

DATE: 12/08/2025

INSTRUCTIONS:

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

Q1 a. Briefly discuss what you understand by content and form approach in literary analysis. (20 marks)

b. Show a distinction between stylistics and literary criticism (10 marks)

Q2. With close reference to 'The Voter' by Chinua Achebe and 'Coming to Birth' by Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye, show how a short story is distinct from a novel. (20 marks)

Q3. Read the following poem and show how style has been used to bring out the message in the text. (20 marks)

I met a thief

A. S. Bukenya

On the beach, on the coast,

Under the idle, whisperingcoconut towers,

Before the growling, foaming waves,
I met a thief, who guessed I had
An innocent heart for her to steal.
She took my hand and led me under
The intimate cashew boughs which shaded
The downy grass peeping weeds.
She jumped and plucked the nuts for me to suck,
She sang and laughed and pressed close.
I gazed: her hair was like the wool of a mountain sheep.
Her eyes, a pair of brown- black beans floating in milk.
Juicy and round as plantain shoots
Her legs, arms and neck;
And like wine-gourds her pillowy breasts;
Her throat uttered fresh banana juice:
Matching her face - smooth and banana ripe.
I touched- but long before I even tasted,
My heart had flowed from me into her breast;
And then she went - high and
South -
And left my carcass roasting in the fire she'd lit.

Q4. Discuss the theme of racism as exemplified in Richard Wright's *Native Son*. (20 marks)

Q5. Explain, with illustrations from texts studied in this course, five elements of literature. (20marks)