



KISII UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

SPECIAL/SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS
FIRST YEAR EXAMINATION FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION [ARTS]
SECOND SEMESTER, 2021/2022
(JULY, 2022)

LITT 123: READING AND INTERPRETING LITERATURE

STREAM: Y1 S2

TIME: 2 HOURS

DAY: WEDNESDAY, 11:30 – 1:30 P.M.

DATE: 20/07/2022

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Do not write anything on this question paper.**
- 2. Answer Question ONE and any other TWO.**

QUESTION ONE

- a) Define the following terms: (6 marks)
- (i) reading
 - (ii) interpretation
 - (iii) point of view
- b) Explain the significance of the following in literary interpretation. (15 marks)
- i. social vision
 - ii. setting
 - iii. strategy
 - iv. poetic diction
 - v. characterization
- c) Distinguish between literary and literal interpretation of a work of art. (4 marks)
- d) Briefly explain why it is important to read a text more than once before attempting any meaningful interpretation of it. (5 marks)

QUESTION TWO

“Ezeulu’s selfishness is partly to blame for the community’s departure from tradition in ‘Arrow of God’.” Discuss the truth of this statement.

QUESTION THREE

With reference to Francis Imbuga’s *Betrayal in the City*, discuss how the playwright uses satire to describe the evils of corruption in the society.

QUESTION FOUR

Drawing illustrations from Ngugi wa Thiong’o’s *The River Between*, discuss the author’s social vision for the society.

QUESTION FIVE

Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow.

Resolutions (J. Ngira)
In his precious time
God thought of Africa
And gave us the will
To pass resolutions
Season’s biddings
For the roaches and dust

What else, to reaffirm
The poverty of lands so green
The hunger of a people so strong
The slow death of hope
For a greener tomorrow

Shall we now
To the little infants
Pass a last resolution
Just humble disillusion?

- (a) Who is the persona in the poem above? (2marks)
- (b) Discuss the poet’s concern(s) in this poem (6marks)
- (c) Identify any three stylistic devices used in the poem and explain their effect. (9marks)
- (d) Paraphrase stanza three (3marks)