

30

**MASINDE MULIRO UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY (MMUST)  
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS  
SPECIAL/SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMS  
2021/2022 ACADEMIC YEAR  
THIRD YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS  
FOR THE DEGREE  
OF  
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)**

**COURSE CODE: LIT 308**

**COURSE TITLE: LITERATURE OF THE AMERICAS**

**DATE: THURSDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022**

**TIME: 2:00- 4:00 PM**

---

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Answer Question ONE and any other THREE questions.

MMUST observes ZERO tolerance to exam cheating

This paper consists of two printed pages. Please turn over.

1. Critically outline the major historical and cultural developments in American Literature from the country's independence to the present. With examples from selected texts, explain the major theoretical movements that have defined each stage and their influence on contemporary studies of American literatures (25marks).
2. Referring to THREE or more poems by Langston Hughes, examine the impact of the Harlem Renaissance period on American post-independence literature (15 marks).
3. Emily Dickinson is the most erudite and emotional American Romantic poet. Do you agree? Use examples from THREE or more of her poems (15 marks).
4. In Richard Wright's *Native Son* Bigger Thomas is depicted as a highly disturbed but complex character that is grappling with poverty, racism and psychological torture. Do you agree? Discuss using examples from the novel (15marks).
5. In what ways does Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* depict the breakdown of family and failure of capitalism and morality in post-Depression America? Use examples from the play to support your answer (15 marks).
6. Discuss racism, the American Dream and political optimism in Barack Obama's *Dreams from my Father* (15 marks).
7. Examine the themes of gender equity, violence against women and trauma in Toni Morrison's *Beloved* (15 marks).
8. With reference to Olaudah Equiano's *The Interesting Narrative of Olaudah Equiano, Or Gustavus Vassa, the Native* describe any FOUR themes in the slave narrative (15 marks).