



(University of Choice)

**MASINDE MULIRO UNIVERSITY OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(MMUST)**

SCHOOL BASED

**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS
2023/2024 ACADEMIC YEAR**

FOURTH YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

**FOR THE DEGREE
OF
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION ART**

COURSE CODE: LIT 402

COURSE TITLE. EUROPEAN LITERATURE

SCHOOL BASED EXAMINATION

DATE: MONDAY 18/12/2023 TIME: 2:00-4:00PM

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer three questions. Question one is compulsory

TIME: 2 Hours

1. Discuss characteristics of any three literary epochs in the growth of European Literature.
 - a. Classical period
 - b. Age of Realism
 - c. Romantic period
 - d. Modernism
 - e. Post Modernism period

(30 marks)
2. With reference to *King Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles discuss features of tragedy defined by Aristotle in the *Poetics*. (20 marks)
3. Discuss Bertolt Brecht's theoretical ideas as exemplified in *Mother Courage and her children*. (20 marks)
4. With reference to *Othello* or *The Black Moor* by Shakespeare discuss the adoption of characteristics of the Shakespearian Theater in the selected play. (20 marks)
5. With reference to the poem below by John Keats *Ode to a Nightingale* discuss five features of style that reflect the romantic period. (20 marks)

Ode to a Nightingale

My heart aches, and a drowsy numbness pains
 My sense, as though of hemlock I had drunk,
 Or emptied some dull opiate to the drains
 One minute past, and Lethe-wards had sunk:
 'Tis not through envy of thy happy lot,
 But being too happy in thine happiness,—
 That thou, light-winged Dryad of the trees
 In some melodious plot
 Of beechen green, and shadows numberless,
 Singest of summer in full-throated ease.

O, for a draught of vintage! that hath been
 Cool'd a long age in the deep-delved earth,
 Tasting of Flora and the country green,
 Dance, and Provençal song, and sunburnt mirth!
 O for a beaker full of the warm South,
 Full of the true, the blushful Hippocrene,
 With beaded bubbles winking at the brim,
 And purple-stained mouth;
 That I might drink, and leave the world unseen,
 And with thee fade away into the forest dim:

Fade far away, dissolve, and quite forget
 What thou among the leaves hast never known,
 The weariness, the fever, and the fret
 Here, where men sit and hear each other groan;

Where palsy shakes a few, sad, last gray hairs,
Where youth grows pale, and spectre-thin, and dies;
Where but to think is to be full of sorrow
And leaden-eyed despairs,
Where Beauty cannot keep her lustrous eyes,
Or new Love pine at them beyond to-morrow.

Away! away! for I will fly to thee,
Not charioted by Bacchus and his pards,
But on the viewless wings of Poesy,
Though the dull brain perplexes and retards:
Already with thee! tender is the night,
And haply the Queen-Moon is on her throne,
Cluster'd around by all her starry Fays;
But here there is no light,
Save what from heaven is with the breezes blown
Through verdurous glooms and winding mossy ways.

I cannot see what flowers are at my feet,
Nor what soft incense hangs upon the boughs,
But, in embalmed darkness, guess each sweet
Wherewith the seasonable month endows
The grass, the thicket, and the fruit-tree wild;
White hawthorn, and the pastoral eglantine;
Fast fading violets cover'd up in leaves;
And mid-May's eldest child,
The coming musk-rose, full of dewy wine,
The murmurous haunt of flies on summer eves.

Darkling I listen; and, for many a time
I have been half in love with easeful Death,
Call'd him soft names in many a mused rhyme,
To take into the air my quiet breath;
Now more than ever seems it rich to die,
To cease upon the midnight with no pain,
While thou art pouring forth thy soul abroad
In such an ecstasy!
Still wouldst thou sing, and I have ears in vain—
To thy high requiem become a sod.

Thou wast not born for death, immortal Bird!
No hungry generations tread thee down;
The voice I hear this passing night was heard
In ancient days by emperor and clown:
Perhaps the self-same song that found a path
Through the sad heart of Ruth, when, sick for home,

She stood in tears amid the alien corn;
The same that oft-times hath
Charm'd magic casements, opening on the foam
Of perilous seas, in faery lands forlorn.

Forlorn! the very word is like a bell
To toll me back from thee to my sole self!
Adieu! the fancy cannot cheat so well
As she is fam'd to do, deceiving elf.
Adieu! adieu! thy plaintive anthem fades
Past the near meadows, over the still stream,
Up the hill-side; and now 'tis buried deep
In the next valley-glades:
Was it a vision, or a waking dream?
Fled is that music:—Do I wake or sleep?