



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

~~SCHOOL BASED~~

**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS
2022/2023 ACADEMIC YEAR**

SECOND YEAR ONE SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

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

COURSE CODE: LIT 200

COURSE TITLE. EAST AFRICAN ORAL LITERATURE AND POETRY

REGULAR EXAMINATION

**DATE: THURSDAY 7/12/2023
5:00PM**

TIME: 3:00-

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer three questions. Question one is compulsory

TIME: 2 hours

Question One (20 marks)

- i) Discuss five themes commonly tackled by East African writers. (15 marks)
- ii) Demonstrate the presence of poetry in East Africa before the coming of the whiteman's knowledge of graphics (writing) and numerals (counting) (15 marks)

Question Two (20 marks)

- a) With close reference to *Song of Lawino* by Okot P' Bitek, discuss the impact of the imposition of the western civilization on African civilization.
- b) Show how form and content of the poem in (a) above inform the readers in a major way about African culture

Question Three (20 marks)

"The ancient Swahili culture in essence justifies male chauvinism and condemns a woman to subservience" Discuss this view with close reference to the Swahili Classic *Utendi wa Mwana Kupona*

Question Four (20 marks)

- a) "Oral literature forms can be presented in written form." Using relevant illustrations from texts of your choice, argue for, or against the statement above. (14 marks)
- b) Identify and explain THREE major features of orality in written texts (6 marks)

Question Five

Using any poem, explore the representation of political disillusionment that encumbered early postcolonial East African poetry (20 marks)

OR

Explain the significance of context and audience in the performance of oral poetry (20 marks)