



Kasarani Campus
Off Thika Road
Tel. 2042692 / 3
P. O. Box 49274, 00100
NAIROBI
Westlands Campus
Pamstech House
Woodvale Grove
Tel. 4442212
Fax: 4444175

KIRIRI WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION, 2024/2025 ACADEMIC YEAR
SECOND YEAR, SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION
FOR THE BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

Date: 18th April, 2024
Time: 11.30am-1.30pm

KLT 2203: EAST AFRICAN POETRY

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

ANSWER QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) AND ANY OTHER TWO QUESTIONS

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) Explain the following terms
- i) Poetry (5 Marks)
 - ii) Symbolism (5 Marks)
 - iii) Poetic License (5 Marks)
- b) Explore the characteristics of an epic poem. (7 Marks)
- c) Discuss **four** dominant themes in East African poetry. (8 Marks)

QUESTIONS TWO (20 MARKS)

- a) Using Okot p'Bitek's poems, explain the role of African poets in conveying our socio-cultural identity as Africans. (10 marks)
- b) With reference to the poems studied in this course, examine the political situation in East Africa. (10 marks)

QUESTIONS THREE (20 MARKS)

- a) With appropriate examples, discuss **five** distinctive features of elegies. (10 Marks)
- b) Using examples of your choice, explain **five** types of images used in poetry. (10 Marks)

QUESTIONS FOUR (20 MARKS)

- a) Examine the **five** features of oral poetry in East African traditional society. (10 Marks)
- b) In the poem below. Discuss any **two** themes featured in Henry Barlow's poem

“Building the Nation”. (10 Marks)

Today I did my share
In building the nation.
I drove the permanent secretary
To an important urgent function
In fact to a luncheon at the Vic.

The menu reflected its importance
Cold Bell beer with small talk,
Then fried chicken with niceties
Wine to fill the hollowness of the laughs
Ice-cream to cover the stereotype jokes
Coffee to keep the PS awake on return journey.

I drove the permanent secretary back.
He yawned many times in the back of the car
Then to keep awake, he suddenly asked,
Did you have any lunch friend?
I replied looking straight ahead
And secretly smiling at his belated concern
That I had not, but was sliming!

Upon which he said with a seriousness
That amused more than annoyed me,
Mwananchi, I too had none!
I attended to matters of state.
Highly delicate diplomatic duties you know,
And friend, it goes against my grain,
Causes me stomach ulcers and wind.
Ah, he continued, yawning again,
The pains we suffer in building the nation!
So the PS had ulcers too!
My ulcers I think are equally painful
Only they are caused by hunger,
No sumptuous lunches!

So two nation builders
Arrived home this evening
With terrible stomach pains
The result of building the nation –
-Different ways.

QUESTIONS FIVE(20 MARKS)

Carefully read the poem below and answer the questions that follow.

You embarrass me...

Mwananchi

Why do you embarrass me with your questions

About the new Mercedes I bought

The large farm I own

The houses, the wives,

An inflated stomach!

Mwananchi

Why do you threaten me with your threats

The threats in your bloodshot eyes

Fixedly pointed at me wherever I go

Like if you are ready

To release the arrow that will deflate me

Into nothingness;

Even the watchmen, the dogs, the police

Are all not enough to protect me

From your increasing shouts to protest

Against my good judgement;

Mwananchi

Have you forgotten how you loved me

And gave me your vote

That I may be your man in parliament?

Now that I have the power

I will mend your confused senses

And keep you in prison

Until you see me as your leader again

And keep those bloodshot eyes away from me

I will charge like an angry lion

And scare you out of your wits

Until like a frightened dog,

You keep your head forever...

Everett M. Standa

- Citing examples from the poem, discuss two dominant themes in the poem above. (10 marks)
- Discuss on any **two** aspects of style in the poem. (5 marks)
- Explain the meaning of the phrase, "Inflated stomach" as used in the poem. (5 marks)