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KIRIRI WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION, 2023/2024 ACADEMIC YEAR
THIRD YEAR, SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION
FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION(ARTS)
KLT 2308-AFRO-AMERICAN LITERATURE

Date: 5th December 2023

Time: 11:30am-1.30pm

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

ANSWER QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) AND ANY OTHER TWO QUESTIONS

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- Examine the contribution of the slave narratives to the growth of Afro-American literature. (9 Marks)
- Assess the theme of identity as manifested in the texts studied in this course. (6 Marks)
- Describe the role played by Claude McKay on the build up to the Harlem Renaissance. (7 Marks)
- Analyze how the theme of invisibility is handled in Afro-American literature. (8 Marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- Would you agree with McKay that failure to hit back at oppression is self-betrayal? Respond to this question with reference to the poem 'If We Must Die' by Claude McKay. (10 Marks)
- Explain how the style of symbolism has been utilized by the Afro-American writers to reveal the Black people's experience in America. (10 Marks)

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

Read the following excerpt from Langston Hughes' poem and answer the questions that follow:

I am the darker brother.
They send me to eat in the kitchen
When company comes,
But I laugh
And eat well,
And grow strong.

- Describe the significance of line -1 in the poem regarding Afro-American history. (10 Marks)
- Discuss the overall meaning of the poem. (10 Marks)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- Give reasons why you think more poetry was produced in the literature of the Renaissance than in other periods (10 Marks)

- b) Describe the main themes that stand out in Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man. (10 Marks)

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

- a) "Richard Wright's Bigger Thomas also moved from the South to the North". Explain the relevance of this statement in relation to the Afro-American people's life. (10 Marks)
- b) Explain the conditions in the period of the Great Depression influenced the literary works that were written in this period. (10 Marks)