



FINAL EXAMINATIONS

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
KITENGELA CAMPUS

SECOND SEMESTER, 2025/2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS IN
EDUCATION

LITT 2213: EAST AFRICAN POETRY AND DRAMA

STREAM: BEDU

TIME: 2 HOURS

EXAMINATION SESSION: DECEMBER

YEAR: 2025

DAY []

DATE: []

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Attempt ALL the questions in Section A
 2. Attempt any Two questions in Section B
 3. The entire exam is worth forty (40) marks.
 4. Write ONLY on the space provided on the answer sheet or as otherwise instructed.
 5. Where necessary Show your working clearly.
 6. Do NOT attempt to access any library, online (audio, video, digital or electronic) or paper-based (written), sources for your answers unless this is clearly advised in the Question.
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Question One (Compulsory – 20 marks)

- i. Analyze the role of oral poetry and drama (songs, chants, initiation rituals, and storytelling) in shaping the cultural and social life of pre-colonial East Africa. (5marks)
- ii. Critically examine how *Song of Lawino* by Okot p'Bitek and *The Trials of Dedan Kimathi* or ANY text studied by Ngugi wa Thiong'o reflect cultural resistance. (5 marks)
- iii. Evaluate the portrayal of gender roles and patriarchy in *Utendi wa Mwana Kuponu* or in one East African play of your choice. (5 marks)
- iv. Create a conceptual outline showing how poetry and drama have functioned as tools of social criticism and cultural preservation in East Africa. (5 marks)

SECTION B -ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS

Question Two

- i. Compare the treatment of death and mourning in *The Death of My Father* (Henry Indangasi) and any other funerary poem studied in this unit. (5 marks)
- ii. Evaluate the effectiveness of using funeral poetry to preserve cultural values in modern written East African poetry. (5 marks)

Question Three

- i. Analyze how Ngugi wa Thiong'o and Ngugi wa Mirii use *I Will Marry When I Want* or ANY text you studied in this unit is used to critique socio-economic inequalities. (5 marks)
- ii. Evaluate the significance of the Schools Drama Festival and Travelling Theatre in the development of modern East African drama. (5 marks)

Question Four

- i. Critically assess how poems on economic struggles (e.g., *Turn Boy* by Mabala, *The Guilt of Giving* by Erapu) and plays like *The Trials of Dedan Kimathi* reflect social inequalities in East Africa. (5 marks)
- ii. Discuss how satire and irony have been used in both East African poetry and drama to expose political corruption and exploitation. (5 marks)