



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2016/2017

THIRD SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS AND BACHELOR OF EDUCATION

ALT 100: CRITICAL READING AND RESPONSE

DATE: Tuesday, 25th July 2017

TIME: 8.00 a.m. - 10.00 a.m.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Answer **THREE** questions only

Question **ONE** is **COMPULSORY**

1. "Critical reading is more serious than casual reading; it involves our intellectual and emotional engagement with a text, leading to better enjoyment of the text." Referring to any text you have engaged with the ALT 100 course, demonstrate your understanding of this statement.

2. **Either**

(a) "In *The Burdens*, both Tinka and Wamala are confronted with poverty and domestic problems, but they respond in different ways." Contrast how the two characters respond to their situation after their fall from grace to grass.

Or

(b) Assess the main concern in any play you have read in this course. (22 marks)

3. **Either**

(a) Discuss Tekayo's loss of humanity in Grace Ogot's Tekayo.

Or

(b) Discuss the assertion that Ngugi Wa Thiongo's *A Meeting in the Dark* is more than just a love story. (22 marks)

4. **Either**

- (a) Argue for the position that Barbara Kimenye's *The Battle of the Sacred Tree* satirizes those who think that change can be achieved quickly and blindly.

Or

- (b) Critically assess the elements of style and meaning in Chinua Achebe's No Longer at Ease or any other novel you have read. (22 marks)

5. Critically respond to the following poem.

(22 marks)

Richard Cory

Whenever Richard Cory went down town
We people on the pavement looked at him:
He was a gentleman from sole to crown,
Clean favored, and imperially slim.

And he was always quietly arrayed,
And he was always human when he talked;
But still he fluttered pulses when he said,
"Good morning," and he glittered when he walked.

And he was rich- yes, richer than a king-
And admirably schooled in every grace:
In fine, we thought that he was everything
To make us wish that we were in his place.

So on we worked, and waited for the light,
And went without the meat, and cursed the bread;
And Richard Cory, one calm summer night,
Went home and put a bullet through his head.

Edwin Arlington Robinson