



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2017/2018

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

ALT 100: CRITICAL READING AND RESPONSE

DATE: Friday, 2nd February 2018

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 in the ALT 100 course, demonstrate your understanding of this statement. (26 marks)
2. **Either:**
 - (a) "In *The Floods*, the struggle between Nankya and Bwogo illuminates the general problems of the post-independent African countries. Discuss. (22 marks)

Or:

 - (b) It may be argued that "*The Lion And The Jewel*" has no truly heroic character. To what extent do you agree with this statement? (22 marks)
3. With close reference to any short story discussed in this course, show how any two unique elements of style contribute to its central theme. (22 marks)
4. **Either:**
 - (a) Discuss how Meja Mwangi explores urban problems in *Kill Me Quick*. (22 marks)

Or:

 - (b) Discuss Achebe's treatment of conflict between the individual and society in "*No Longer At Ease*". (22 marks)

5. Read the following poem, and then write a critical essay on it.

(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