



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2016/2017

INSTITUTIONAL BASED PROGRAMME (IBP) DECEMBER 2016 SESSION

EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS

ALT 803: STYLISTICS AND PRACTICAL CRITICISM

DATE: WEDNESDAY 23RD AUGUST 2017

TIME: 9.00 A.M. - 12.00 P.M.

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer Question ONE and any other Two Questions

1. Practical criticism” essentially aims at establishing the aesthetic value of given works of art. Using the works of any author(s) of your choice, describe some of the literary techniques that are crucial in this undertaking.
2. “Without language there would totally be no point to talk about a “literary work of art”. What is your considered opinion about this assertion?
3. Major statements in literary criticism are associated with a number of notable scholars. Choose any THREE from your own reading and clearly show their contribution in literature.
4. “Content not only influences but determines form” Discuss.
5. Present a stylistic analysis of the following poem.

Okot P'BITEK they sowed and watered

They sowed and watered
Acres of cynicisms
Planted forests of laughter's
Bitter laughter's and flowed in torrents
And men shed tears as they rocked
And held their chest
And laughed and laughed
The floods of tears turned red

They manure the land and frustrations sprouted
Bursting the soil
Like young bananas
Fat frustrations flourished fast
Yielding fruits as gall

On the hillsides
They planted angers
And their blossoms crimson red
Covered the hills like
February fires
Their prickly leaves hard and yellow
Pricked men's skins
And wounds festered.

In the valley
A streamlet trickled
Its waters sluggish thick
Besides the streamlet rotting smelly

A I'm named freedom

Dead as stone

A small herds-boy sat on the bank

He threw small stones

Which hit the carcass

Flier rose like white ants

The boy sobbed eyes full of pepper

Ten men stood on the other side

They roared lion-like