



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2015/2016

INSTITUTIONAL BASED PROGRAMME (IBP) – DECEMBER 2015 SESSION
EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION AND BACHELOR
OF ARTS

ALT 303: THEORY AND HISTORY OF LITERATURE

DATE: Friday, 29th April, 2016

TIME: 11.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Answer **THREE** questions. Question **ONE** is **Compulsory**.

Avoid duplication of materials.

1. Explain your understanding of the following terms:
 - a) Literary theory (5 marks)
 - b) Nature of Literature (5 marks)
 - c) Ideology (5 marks)
 - d) Catharsis (5 marks)
 - e) Mimesis (5 marks)
 - i) Literary history (5 marks)
2. Discuss the controversy surrounding Art according to Plato and Aristotle. Which side of the controversy do you stand? Why? (20 marks)
3. Using a relevant literature text by Ngugi wa Thiong'o, show how it renders to **EITHER** a Marxist literary interpretation **OR** how the writer presents the postcolonial experience. (20 marks)
4. Attempt a deconstructive analysis of a literary text you have studied in this course. (20 marks)
5. Attempt **EITHER** question 5 (a) **OR** question 5 (b) below:
 - a) How do linguistic structuralists help us in understanding the workings of literary texts? Use illustrations from a text you have studied in this course. (20 marks)
 - b) Discuss how the standpoints of feminism are applicable in the analysis of a literary text you have studied in this course. (20 marks)