



GARISSA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION **2017/2018** ACADEMIC YEAR **TWO**
FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

COURSE CODE: LIT 211

COURSE TITLE: EAST AFRICAN POETRY

EXAMINATION DURATION: 3 HOURS

DATE: 05/12/17

TIME: 09.00-12.00 PM

INSTRUCTION TO CANDIDATES

- The examination has **SIX (6)** questions
- Question **ONE (1)** is **COMPULSORY**
- Choose any other **THREE (3)** questions from the remaining **FIVE (5)** questions
- Use sketch diagrams to illustrate your answer whenever necessary
- Do not carry mobile phones or any other written materials in examination room
- Do not write on this paper

This paper consists of **THREE (3)** printed pages

please turn over



QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY)

Classify East African Oral Poetry and discuss its defining characteristics.

[25 marks]

QUESTION TWO

Analyze the use of imagery and symbolism in Okot P'Bitek's *Song of Lawino*.

[15 marks]

QUESTION THREE

Discuss style as an integral part of any **three** East African political poems of your choice.

[15 marks]

QUESTION FOUR

Examine the themes of any **three** East African social life poems studied in this course.

[15 marks]

QUESTION FIVE

Discuss the use and effectiveness of stylistic devices in any **three** East African economic life poems you are familiar with

[15 marks]

QUESTION SIX

Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow:

I AM TIRED OF TALKING IN METAPHORS

By Susan Nalugwa Kiguli

I will talk plainly

Because I am moved to abandon riddles

I will tell you how

We held our heads in our hands

Because the owl hooted all night

And the dog howled as if in mourning-

We wanted the bad news

We received it.

Our mother blinded in one eye

Crippled in the right leg

Because she did not vote for husband's candidate

I will remind you of peeled plantains

Stood upright an important visitor



We got her:

Our daughter-pieces of flesh in sack

Our present from her husband

No I will not use images

I will just talk to you

I do not fight take your place

Or constantly wave my fists in your place

I refuse to argue about

Your 'manly pact'

With my father

You buying me for a bag of potatoes

And pepper

All I want

Is for you to stop denying me

My presence needs no metaphors

I am here

Just as you are

I am not a machine

To dismantle whenever you whim

I demand human dignity

- (a) What is the theme of the poem? Explain your answer with appropriate illustrations. **[2 marks]**
- (b) Who is the persona in the poem? Illustrate your answer. **[2 marks]**
- (c) Identify and explain three stylistic devices used in the poem. **[6 marks]**
- (d) Identify the following as depicted in the poem:
- i. Tone **[2 marks]**
 - ii. Mood **[2 marks]**
- (e) Identify and explain the meaning of the following phrases as used in the poem:
- i. Manly pact **[1/2 mark]**
 - ii. Bag of potatoes **[1/2 mark]**

