



MASENO UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2012/2013

SECOND YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS) WITH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (HOMA BAY CAMPUS - SCHOOL-BASED)

ALI 202: LITERARY THEORY AND CRITICISM

Date: 3rd August, 2013

Time: 8.00 – 10.00 a.m.

INSTRUCTIONS

- ♦ Answer Question ONE (COMPULSORY) and any other TWO questions.
- ♦ Avoid duplication of material in answer to more than one question.
- ♦ Desist from writing any rough work on the question paper.
- ♦ Familiarize yourself with the instructions given on your booklet.
- ♦ Credit will be given to students who use examples other than those discussed in class.
- ♦ A lot of importance is attached to accuracy of grammar and clarity of expression.

1. Compulsory

The problem with theory and criticism is that it robs a work of art, the beauty of a pleasurable experience. Discuss (30 marks)

2. Literary critics state that good literature 'Ought to combine pleasure with some useful precincts of life (Dulce et Utile). React to this claim by referring to Horace's views on the nature of literary merit. (20marks)

3. Often, the experience of reading a great work of art or listening to a great speech leads us to a feeling of ecstasy, which Longinus calls sublimity. Discuss. (20marks)

4. Examine the view that: Whereas, Plato presents the literary critic with the platonic dilemma, Aristotle provides the resolution.

(20marks)

5. With ample illustrations, explain the meaning and usage of the following terms in literature.

i). Catharsis ii) Reversal iii) mimesis iv) Chorus (20marks)

Either

6a. Examine the view that a synthesis of Kant's moral theory and Sidney's mimetic interpretation would result in a more balanced criticism of literary texts. (20marks)

Or

6b. Argue out for Achebe's choice to continue using the English Language, a borrowed tongue, to carry the weight of the African experience versus Ngugi Wathiongo's view that language has a dual character, and the African writer should therefore use the indigenous Language.