



**JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION FOR BACHELOR OF EDUCATION ARTS
2NDYEAR 2ND SEMESTER 2022/2023 ACADEMIC YEAR
MAIN CAMPUS**

COURSE CODE:	ZLB 9214
COURSE TITLE:	POETRY IN EAST AFRICA
EXAM VENUE:	STREAM: (BED ARTS)
DATE:15/12/2022	EXAM SESSION: 9.00-11.00AM
TIME:	2.00 HOURS

Instructions:

- 1. Answer Question ONE and ANY other two.**
- 2. Candidates are advised not to write on the question paper.**
- 3. Candidates must hand in their answer booklets to the invigilator while in the examination room.**

1. COMPULSORY

Making reference to the following texts, discuss the evident everyday concerns of contemporary East African poets and how they aesthetically bring them out in their texts. (30 marks)

Text A

I Speak for the Bush **By Everett Standa**

When my friend sees me
He swells and pants like a frog
Because I talk the wisdom of the bush!
He says we from the bush
Do not understand civilized ways
For we tell our women
To keep the hem of their dresses
Below the knee.
We from the bush, my friend insists,
Do not know how to 'enjoy':
When we come to the civilized city,
Where women belong to no men
And men belong to no women
And these civilized people
Quarrel and fight like hungry lions!

But, my friend, why do men
With crippled legs, lifeless eyes,
Wooden legs, empty stomachs
Wander about the streets
Of this civilized world?

Teach me, my friend, the trick,
So that my eyes may not
See those whose houses have no walls
But emptiness all around;
Show me the wax you use

To seal your ears
To stop hearing the cry of the hungry;

Teach me the new wisdom
Which tells men
To talk about money and not love
When they meet women;

Tell your God to convert
Me to the faith of the indifferent,
The faith of those
Who will never listen until
They are shaken with blows.

I speak for the bush:
You speak for the civilized –
Will you hear me?

Text B

Dark Skin

By Caroline M. Acen

My husband hit me with his car
In the driveway last night.
He blamed me for being as dark as 3am.
I screeched like a banshee when he
knocked my hip and thrust me
to the cracked asphalt in front
of the balcony.

He said that I was disowned by the
night and that I am a slave of daylight.
My complaints are shredded like Kraft paper.
Fate damned me to this dark curse.
I'm not good enough to wrap
my melanin with white.

My husband said that he married me
to pay the devil's debt.

He blatantly says that making love
to me feels like jogging in the
sweltering heat of the Sahara.
Coming home to me is nothing but charity
I am invisible as a fart in the wind.

2. 'The African oral tradition is an outdated form of knowledge in the modern literary dispensation'. Do you agree? Draw your illustrations from Okot P' Bitek's *Song of Lawino*. (20 marks)

3. Referring to at least three East African poets featured in the anthology *Poems from East Africa* by Cook and Rubadiri, argue a case for the consideration of their works as protest poetry. (20 marks)

4. 'Swahili narrative poetry has earned its place of honour among the literary artistic forms of expression in East Africa'. Citing examples from any poem of your choice, assess the truth in this statement. (20 marks)

5. Drawing illustrations from the works of at least two female poets, discuss the artists' portrayal of the experiences of womanhood in the East African region. (20 marks)