



JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION FOR BACHELOR OF EDUCATION ARTS
2ND YEAR 2ND SEMESTER 2023/2024 ACADEMIC YEAR
MAIN CAMPUS

COURSE CODE: ZLB 9214

COURSE TITLE: POETRY IN EAST AFRICA

EXAM VENUE: STREAM:

DATE: EXAM SESSION:

TIME: 2.00 HOURS

Instructions:

1. Answer question ONE (Compulsory) 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.

Q1.

- a) Basing your response on the poems encountered in this course, critically explore the view that East African poets have effectively deployed distinctive poetic devices to both mirror and interrogate the East African socio-cultural challenges over time.

(20 marks)

- b) Clearly illustrate any Four character traits of Ocol in Okot p'Bitek's *Song of Lawino*.

(10 Marks)

Q2. **Either**

Demonstrate how any two poets in the Tanzanian anthology of poems, *Summons*, have infused excellence of form with commitment and provocative content to awaken the East African socio-political consciousness. (20 Marks)

Or

Drawing your illustration from the epic of Fumo Liyongo, show how the Swahili epic poetry relies on excellence of form to carve out the image of the hero.

(20 Marks)

Q3. Discuss Micere Mugo's *My Mother's Song and Other Poems* as a byproduct of the song school. (20 Marks)

Q4. Attempt a critical analysis of the following poem for form and content.

(20 Marks)

SOMEWHERE 1 (By W. Odame in Luvai's *Boundless Voices*)

In this side of the town
you will know only one smell
the pungent stale air
of human excreta
that hangs low over the village

The roads in this side of town

that criss-cross this human refuge
are clogged thick
like a blocked nose
with mucus of waste and mud
It is here
that semi-naked children
like some embroidery of flies
buzz around the devastated land-scape
of mud and cardboard huts

If you wanted to study
the human instincts of survival
come see
frail women, child parents
sell a jumbled assortment
of old goods and food

If you wanted to know neglect, desperation
come see men
with healing scars
alcoholics
doze in numerous 'Kibandas'
trying to eke a living
out of poverty

It is here, in these slums
that birds of no income
gather to pick
the lean bones of poverty
the generation that wealth forgot

It is the mobilization of this
teeming human reservoir
that the harvest of tomorrow awaits
a liberation from inhumanity.

Q5.

Critically examine the import of Okot p'Bitek's use of conversational tone in

Song of Lawino.

(20 Marks)