



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

COURSE CODE:	ZLB 9216
COURSE TITLE:	ORATURE IN EAST AFRICA
EXAM VENUE:	STREAM: (BED ARTS)
DATE:	EXAM SESSION:
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 (30 Marks)

Read the texts below and answer the questions that follow.

TEXT A

If Death Were Not There

If death were not there,
Where would the inheritor get things?
The cattle have been left for the inheritor;
Ee, how would the inheritor get things?
The iron-roofed house has been left for the inheritor;
Ee, if death were not there,
How would the inheritor get rich?
The bicycle has been left for the inheritor;
This inheritor is most lucky!
Ee, brother, tell me,
If death were not there,
Ugly one, whose daughter would have married you?
A wife has been left for the inheritor;
Ee, inheritor, how would you have lived?
The house has been left for the inheritor;
If death were not there,
How would the inheritor get things?

TEXT B

AkambaSong

At Kitilis there are herdsmen, both boys and girls,
There are goats and lambs and cattle:
Mwesya, do I not call you in my poverty?
I have no family, I have no mother,
I have no relatives to call upon.
Death, I will not give him food or water
Seeing he has denied me my father and my family.
E! Grinding!
Musyoka,
I have no family, I have no mother,
The mother of my sister Vika, Lonza and Linda;

How forlorn I am! Did I call you?
I do not share the sleeping mat with Lonza.
How forlorn I am, I have nothing of my own!

TEXT C

A Kipsigis song

We tell you we are going,
We men don't mock us women.
We tell you circumcision is painful
But you can't die.
We tell you step on the grass
While it falls down.
So we tell you children
Those who go for circumcision like Europeans
Who go to their wedding calmly prepared?
We tell you
Stay firm like a stone
We shall be happy after your circumcision
Even those who, are passing, even
Brothers.
We tell you
I say thanks until we meet.
See you father, see you mother and
Relative
Till we meet.

Questions

- (i) Giving appropriate reasons, identify the specific genres to which each of the texts above (Texts A, B, and C) belong. (6 Marks)
- (iv) Would Text A be suitable for performance within the context of Text C? Explain your answer. (6 Marks)
- (v) Briefly discuss the message Text A seeks to pass across to members of the community and the strategy it uses to achieve its objective. (6 Marks)

(vi) Discuss the economic activities and cultural practices of the communities portrayed in Texts A, B, and C citing relevant illustrations. (6 Marks)

(vii) Suppose you were engaged in a live performance of Texts A, B, and C, how would the presence of the audience be of utmost importance to you? (6 Marks)

2. Discuss the role of an oral artist within the traditional African society and his continued relevance in the contemporary context. (20 Marks)

3. The inclusion of orature in the syllabus is meant to “introduce the student to his African consciousness and cultural heritage” (p’ Bitek, 1983). Discuss the truth in this statement. (20 Marks)

4. With reference to at least two oral narratives from any Kenyan community, discuss how men and boys are overwhelmingly portrayed in the stories. (20 Marks)

5. With the aid adequate illustrations, explain the process involved in the performance of a riddle citing the importance of every stage. (20 Marks)