



ALUPE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE

... Bastion of Knowledge...

P. O.Box 845-50400 Busia(K)
principal@auc.ac.ke
Tel: +254 741 217 185
+254 736 044 469
off Busia-Malaba road

**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
ACADEMICS, RESEARCH AND STUDENT AFFAIRS**

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS
2019/2020 ACADEMIC YEAR
SECOND YEAR SECOND SEMESTER MAIN EXAMINATION
**FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF
EDUCATION (ARTS)**

COURSE CODE: LIT 221

COURSE TITLE: EAST AFRICAN ORAL LITERATURE

DATE: 27TH OCTOBER, 2020

TIME: 9.00AM – 12.00 NOON

INSTRUCTION TO CANDIDATES

- SEE INSIDE

THIS PAPER CONSISTS OF THREE PRINTED PAGES PLEASE TURN OVER



REGULAR – MAIN EXAM

LIT 221: EAST AFRICAN ORAL LITERATURE

STREAM: BED (Arts)

DURATION: 3 Hours

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- i. *Answer Question **ONE** and any other **TWO** questions.*
- ii. *Do not write on the question paper.*
- iii. *Avoid using the same text to answer more than one question*

Question One

- a. Explain the meaning of the term Oral Literature. (3Marks)
- b. Discuss any **five** functions of Oral Literature in Africa. (10 Marks)
- c. Orality is the medium that distinguishes oral literature from written literature. With this statement in mind, explore the three characteristic features of orality. (9 Marks)
- d. What purposes do opening and closing formulae in narrative serve? Give specific examples from your experiences in oral literature. (8 Marks)

Question Two

- a. Identify and briefly discuss the **THREE** types of societies that have influenced the origin and development of Oral Literature. (9 Marks)
- b. Briefly discuss some of the issues and problems of Oral Literature Scholarship that emerge under the following: (12 Marks)
 - i. The nature of Literature
 - ii. Classification
 - iii. Language use

Question Three

- a. Identify and briefly define four short forms of Oral Literature (4 Marks)
- b. With reference to any one of the short forms identified above, briefly discuss:
 - i. Any four of its characteristics. (4 Marks)
 - ii. its performance in relation to the performer and audience (4 Marks)
 - iii. the process of performance (4Marks)
 - iv. its functions in society (6 Marks)

Question Four

- a. Songs or Oral poetry has various sub genres according to their function in society. With this in mind, critically analyse the purpose of songs under the following rites of passage:
- i. Birth (3 Marks)
 - ii. Initiation (3 Marks)
 - iii. Marriage (3 Marks)
 - iv. Death (3 Marks)
- b. Read the song below and answer the questions after it:
- Ha! That mother who takes her food alone
 Ha! That mother, before she has eaten
 Ha! That mother she says, 'Lull the children for me'
 Ha! That mother when she has finished to eat
 Ha! That mother she says, 'Give that child to me.'
- i. Explain its classification (2 Marks)
 - ii. Critically analyse the character of the singer and that of the mother in this song (6 Marks)

Question Five

- a. Briefly explain any **four** elements of style used in oral narratives. (4 Marks)
- b. Identify and briefly explain the various subgenres of oral narratives. (12 Marks)
- c. Explore any **four** benefits of field work in Oral Literature. (4Marks)