



MERU UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

P.O. Box 972-60200 – Meru-Kenya

Tel: +254(0) 799 529 958, +254(0) 799 529 959, + 254 (0) 712 524 293,

Website: info@must.ac.ke Email: info@must.ac.ke

University Examinations 2024/2025

FOURTH YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION ARTS

ELI 3400: LITERATURE OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA

DATE: JANUARY 2025

TIME: 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer question **one** and any other **two** questions

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) Identify three characteristics of the literature of the African diaspora, paying attention to the three epochs (Transatlantic Slave Trade, process of decolonization and assorted reasons of migration). (6 marks)
- b) Discuss the significance of Harlem Renaissance in advancing the literature of the Diaspora : (4 marks)
- c) Discuss with examples from a play covered in this how Literature of the African Diaspora addresses:
(i) injustice
(ii) alienation (4 marks)
- d) Discuss how slave narratives address; religious redemption liberation and culture (6 marks)
- e) Using a play covered in this unit illustrate the use of language styles in articulating concerns of the Africans in the diaspora (5 marks)

(f) Using examples from a novel covered in this unit, discuss two thematic concerns of the author (5 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

a) With close reference the short story *Strong Horse Tea* by Alice Walker, briefly address two social interests of the writer (10 marks)

b) Explore five language elements that point to the use of oral traditions in the prose fiction of the African Diaspora, drawing examples from relevant texts (10 marks)

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

a) Using a text from one of the three epochs of the African Diaspora migrations examine the use of literature to address social concerns. (10 mark)

b) Using any of the novels covered in this unit; analyze the use of imagery in the articulation of the themes of identity and discrimination (10 mark)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

a) Using the play *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry, discuss the themes of culture and racism (10 marks)

b) Using Abdulrazak Gurnah's *Gravel Heart*, examine how the themes of alienation and belongingness are brought out (10 marks)

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

Using the poem below, identify and illustrate five themes addressed (20 marks)

Yet Do I Marvel

Countee Cullen

I doubt not God is good, well-meaning, kind
And did He stoop to quibble could tell why
The little buries mole continues blind,
Why flesh that mirrors Him must some day die,
Make plain the reason tortured Tantalus
Is baited by the fickle fruit, declare

If memory brute caprice dooms Sisyphus
To struggle up a never-ending stair.
Inscrutable His way are, and immune
To catechism by a mind too strewn
With petty cares to slightly understand
What awful brain compels His awful hand.
Yet do I marvel at this curious thing:
To make a poet black, and bid him sing!