



# **MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY**

## **REGULAR UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2018/2019 ACADEMIC YEAR FOURTH YEAR FIRST SEMESTER**

### **SCHOOL OF ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES BED (ARTS)**

**COURSE CODE: LIT 2111**

**COURSE TITLE: HUMANIST LITERARY THEORY**

**DATE: 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019**

**TIME: 0830 – 1030 HRS**

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#### **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- a) Answer a total of **THREE (3)** Questions:
- b) Question **ONE (1)** is **compulsory**
- c) Answer Question **ONE (1)** any other **TWO (2)** questions

*This paper consists of 2 printed pages. Please turn over*

1.
  - a) Define humanist literary theory and **(5 marks)**
  - b) Identify its characteristics giving examples from the theories that you have studied in this course. **(25 marks)**
  
2. Identify the main tenets of Neo classical theory giving examples from Sir Philip Sidney's arguments in the essay *In Defense of Poetry*. **(20 marks)**
  
3. Outline the Romanticists' response to:
  - a) Neo classical theory **(5 marks)**
  - b) The industrial revolution **(5 marks)**  
and
  - c) Identify the thematic issues in the poem below and explain how it typifies Romanticist aspirations in form, style and vision. **(10 marks)**

**It is a Beauteous Evening, Calm and Free**

By William Wordsworth

It is a beauteous evening, calm and free,  
 The holy time is quiet as a Nun  
 Breathless with adoration; the broad sun  
 Is sinking down in its tranquillity;  
 The gentleness of heaven broods o'er the Sea;  
 Listen! the mighty Being is awake,  
 And doth with his eternal motion make  
 A sound like thunder—everlastingly.  
 Dear child! dear Girl! that walkest with me here,  
 If thou appear untouched by solemn thought,  
 Thy nature is not therefore less divine:  
 Thou liest in Abraham's bosom all the year;  
 And worshipp'st at the Temple's inner shrine,  
 God being with thee when we know it not.

**(20 marks)**

4. Outline the Marxist view of:
  - a) History **(6 marks)**
  - b) Society **(6 marks)**
  - c) Literature **(8 marks)**
  
5. 'The New Criticism is both humanist and formalist in its approach to literature'.  
 Discuss **(20 marks)**

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