



MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY

**REGULAR UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS
2018/2019 ACADEMIC YEAR
SECOND YEAR FIRST SEMESTER**

**SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
BACHELOR OF ARTS**

COURSE CODE: LIT 2111

COURSE TITLE: HUMANIST LITERARY CRITICISM

DATE: 7TH DECEMBER 2018

TIME: 11.00AM- 13.00PM

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- **Question one is compulsory**
- **Answer any other two questions**

1. a) Explain humanism as it applies to literature. (10 mks).
b) Discuss the basic premises of Humanist literary theory using illustrations where necessary. (20 mks)
2. Discuss the major pre-occupations of New Historicist literary criticism using appropriate illustrations from Oludhe Macgoye's *Coming to Birth*. (20 mks)
3. Discuss the basic tenets of Romanticism literary theory using appropriate illustrations. (20 mks)
4. Attempt a Feminist literary analysis of Margaret Ogola's *The River and the Source*. (20 mks)
5. Discuss the basic tenets of Marxist literary theory using illustrations from either Francis Imbuga's *Betrayal in the City* or *Aminata*. (20 mks)
6. Read the poem below and attempt a Formalistic literary analysis.

Building the Nation by Henry Barlow

Today I did my share
In building the nation
I drove the Permanent Secretary
To an important urgent function
In fact, to luncheon at the Vic.

The menu reflected its importance
Cold bell beer with small talks,
The fried chicken with niceties
Wine to fill the hollowness of the laughs
Ice-cream to cover the stereotype jokes
Coffee to keep the PS awake on return journey.

I drove the Permanent Secretary back.

He yawned many times in the back of the car

Then to keep awake, he suddenly asked,
Did you have lunch friend?
I replied looking straight ahead
And secretary smiles at his belated concern.
That I had not, but was slimming!

Upon which he said with seriousness
That amused more than annoyed me,
Mwananchi, I too had none!
I attended to matters of the state.
Highly delicate diplomatic duties you know,
And friend it goes against my grain.
Causes me stomach ulcers and wind.
Ah, he continued, yawning again,
The pains we suffer in building the nation!

So the PS had ulcers too!
My ulcers I think are equally painful
Only they are caused by hunger,
Not sumptuous lunches!

So two nation builder
Arrived home this evening
With terrible stomach pains
The result of building the nation-
-Different ways.

//END