



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 2113

COURSE TITLE: INTRODUCTION TO POETRY

DATE: 14TH DECEMBER 2018

TIME: 8.30 -10.30AM

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Question one is compulsory
- Answer any other two questions

1. Read the poem below and answer the questions provided:

Stream Side Exchange

CHILD

River bird, river bird,
Sitting all day long
on hook over grass,
River bird, river bird.
Sing to me a song
of all that pass
And say,
Will mother come back today?

BIRD

You cannot know
and should not bother;
Tide and market come and go
and so shall your mother.

J.P Clark

- (a) Describe the physical and socio-cultural contexts of the poem. (10 Mrks)
- (b) Discuss any THREE poetic devices used in the poem. (10 Mrks)
- (c) Paraphrase and discuss the main philosophical question raised in the poem? (10 Mrks)

2. Read the poem below and answer the questions provided:

If We Must Die

If we must die, let it not be like hogs
hunted and penned in an inglorious spot,
while round us bark the mad and hungry dogs,
making their mock at our accursed lot.
If we must die, O let us nobly die
So that our precious blood may not be shed
in vain; then even the monsters we defy
shall be constrained to honor us though dead!
O kinsmen! We must meet the common foe!
Though far outnumbered let us show us brave,
And for their thousand blows deal one death blow!
What though before us lies the open grave?
Like men we'll face the murderous, cowardly pack,
pressed to the wall, dying, but fighting back!

Claude McKay

Questions:

- (a) Identify the speaker in the poem and briefly describe his/her immediate circumstances. (5mrks)
- (b) Discuss TWO different types of death portrayed in the poem. (10 Mrks)
- (c) Rewrite lines 10 and 11 in your own words and briefly describe their meaning in their context of use. (5 Mrks)

3. Read the following poem and answer the questions provided:

Anthem for Doomed Youth

What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?

--Only the monstrous anger of the guns.

Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle
can patter out their hasty orisons.

No mockeries now for them; no prayers nor
bells;

Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs,

--

The shrill, demented choirs of wailing shells;

And bugles calling for them from sad
shires.

What candles may be held to speed them all?

Not in the hands of boys, but in their eyes
Shall shine the holy glimmers of goodbyes.

The pallor of girls' brows shall be their pall;
Their flowers the tenderness of patient minds,
And each slow dusk a drawing-down of blinds.

Wilfred Owen

Questions:

- (a) Briefly discuss any THREE sound patterns used in the poem. (6 Mrks)
- (b) Examine any TWO stylistic techniques used that render this as a performance poem. (4 Mrks)
- (c) Discuss any FOUR images of death/dying used in the poem. (8 Mrks)

(d) Briefly describe the tone in the poem. (2 Mrks)

4. Read the poem below and answer the questions provided:

Face to Face

Day after day, O lord of my life,
Shall I stand before thee face to face.
With folded hand, O lord of all worlds,
Shall I stand before thee face to face.

Under thy great sky in solitude and silence,
With humble heart shall I stand before thee face to face.

In this laborious world of thine, tumultuous with toil
and with struggle, among hurrying crowds
shall I stand before thee face to face.

And when my work shall be done in this world,
O King of kings, alone and speechless
shall I stand before thee face to face.

Rabindranath Tagore

Questions:

(a) Identify the speaker in the poem and describe his immediate context.
(4 Mrks)

(b) What subgenre of does this poem belong to? Illustrate your response.
(3 Mrks)

(c) With illustrations from the poem discuss two thematic concerns in the
poem. (10 Mrks)

(d) What is the significance of the title to the thematic concerns of the
poem? (3 Mrks)

//END