



MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY

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

**SCHOOL OF ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES
BA LITERATURE THEATRE AND FILM**

COURSE CODE: LIT: 3124

COURSE TITLE: LITERARY LANGUAGE AND STYLE

DATE: 7TH DECEMBER 2018

TIME: 0830 - 1030 HRS

INSTRUCTIONS:

Attempt Question **ONE** and any other two questions.

Attempt **THREE** questions in all.

Time: **TWO** Hours.

1. 'Style and content complement each other in a work of art.' Give your critical response to this statement. (24mks)
2. Illustrating from either J.Ruganda's The Floods or Ngugi wa Thiong'o's A Grain of Wheat, show how flashback is indispensable in the establishment of a plot. (23mks)
3. Comment on semantic absurdity in any literary title of your choice and show how it is related to the context. (23mks)
4. 'Structure facilitates the meaning.' Evaluate the validity of this statement using any literary text you have studied. (23mks)
5. Use any literary genre to account for rhythmic effect. (23mks)
6. Using the poem below, discuss the stylistic features employed to bring out the persona's attitude to the subject matter. (23mks)

AFRICA

Stand quiet, my friend;
And watch the white haze retreat before you:
See, before your eyes,
The yellow ungainliness of the disjointed maize,
And the crouching huts among the dry stalks.
Look to your horizon
And see, from the flat scrubby thornland
The hunched back of the solitary mountain.
Defying the tongue that dares say it does not belong there.
Turn your head, and see
The tortuous, knotted limbs of the Boabab,
Housing its devils in the evil anticipation
Of the trembling homage of some poor savage
Kneeling before its twisted deity.
Sit on that rock there, and watch the dust clouds
Scuffing lazily in the footsteps of the humped cattle-
Or the red spiral of the antheap
Storey upon storey rising
Into a visible tremor of heat
Look at it all my friend-
At the brown, burnt, arrogant aridness about you:
And tell me-
Is this the majesty of Africa?

Barbara Keating

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