



# **MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY**

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

### **SCHOOL OF ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES B.ED (ARTS)**

**COURSE CODE: LIT 2113**

**COURSE TITLE: INTRODUCTION TO POETRY**

**DATE: 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019**

**TIME: 1430 – 1630 HRS**

---

#### **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Answer a total of **THREE (3)** Questions:

- a) Question **ONE (1)** is **compulsory**
- b) Answer Question **ONE (1)** any other **TWO (2)** questions

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

1. Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow:

**An African Thunderstorm**

By David Rubadiri

From the west  
Clouds come hurrying with the wind  
Turning sharply  
Here and there  
Like a plague of locusts  
Whirling,  
Tossing up things on its tail  
Like a madman chasing nothing.

Pregnant clouds  
Ride stately on its back,  
Gathering to perch on hills  
Like sinister dark wings;  
The wind whistles by  
And trees bend to let it pass.

In the village  
Screams of delighted children,  
Toss and turn  
In the din of the whirling wind,  
Women,  
Babies clinging on their backs  
Dart about  
In and out  
Madly;  
The wind whistles by  
Whilst trees bend to let it pass.

Clothes wave like tattered flags  
Flying off  
To expose dangling breasts  
As jagged blinding flashes  
Rumble, tremble and crack  
Amidst the smell of fired smoke  
And the pelting march of the storm.

- a) What are the thematic concerns in this poem? **(10 marks)**
- b) With illustrations from the text above identify the characteristic features of a poem. **(20 marks)**
- 2.
- a) What are the main concerns in Claude McKay's *If We Must Die*? **(6 marks)**
- b) Define the nature of the sonnet and account for its manifestation in this poem. **(6 marks)**
- c) Identify and account for other stylistic elements in the poem **(8 marks )**
3. What is an ode and why do you think Pablo adopts this form in his poem *Ode to Maize*? Refer to the thematic concerns and the form and style of the poem in your answer. **(20 marks)**
4. Identify the characteristics of African poetry giving illustrations from Ralph Batamazire's poem *I love You My Gentle One*. **(20 marks)**
5. Discuss the New Critic's notion that form and content must be related for the poem to be an organic whole. In your answer draw examples from your reading of Stephen Lubega's poem *Evening*. **(20 marks)**

**//END**