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KIRIRI WOMENS' UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION, 2023/2024 ACADEMIC YEAR
SECOND YEAR, FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION
FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION(ARTS)
KLT 2105 THEORY OF LITERATURE

Date: 8th August 2024
Time: 11.30am-1.30pm

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

ANSWER QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) AND ANY OTHER TWO QUESTIONS

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) Explain the meaning and relevance of the following terms commonly used in literature:
 - i) Literary theory. (2 Marks)
 - ii) Theoretical criticism. (2 Marks)
- b) Evaluate the theory of New-criticism in the application of the study of Poetry. (9 Marks)
- c) Examine the **three** stages of development of feminist criticism and the focus of each stage. (9 marks)
- d) Discuss the origin of Psychoanalysis Theory. (8 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- a) Explain the major tenets of New-criticism. (10 Marks)
- b) Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* is a paradigm of the Postcolonial Theory. Discuss. (10 marks)

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

- a) Compare any TWO of the following theories of literature. (10 Marks)
 - i) Feminist Theory.
 - ii) Postcolonial Theory.
 - iii) Marxist Theory.
 - iv) Biographical Theory.
- b) Culture affects the interpretation of literary works. Discuss this statement in light of the postulations of the theory of New Historicism. (10 marks)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- a) Examine some of the assumptions shared by feminist literary theorists. (10 marks)
- b) Explain why Sigmund Freud is considered as the father of psychoanalysis criticism. (10 Marks).

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

- a) Examine how Mariama Ba has utilized the theory of feminism in *So Long a Letter* (1981). (10 Marks)
- b) Using any of the theoretical approaches you think most appropriate, analyse of the following piece of writing titled “Building the Nation” by Henry Barlow. (10 marks)

Today I did my share
In building the nation.
I drove the permanent secretary
To an important urgent function
In fact to a luncheon at the Vic.

The menu reflected its importance
Cold Bell beer with small talk,
Then 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 any lunch friend?
I replied looking straight ahead
And secretly smiling at his belated concern
That I had not, but was sliming!

Upon which he said with a seriousness
That amused more than annoyed me,
Mwananchi, I too had none!
I attended to matters of 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,
No sumptuous lunches!

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