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UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2023/2024

SECOND YEAR, SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION ARTS

ELI 3250: ORAL LITERATURE AND DRAMA IN KENYA

DATE: APRIL 2024

TIME: 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer Question ONE and any other TWO questions.

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) Identify the three phases in the study of African Oral Literature and clearly state the contribution of each phase in oral literature scholarship (15 Marks)
- b) What are the distinctive features of oral literature? (5 Marks)
- c) Enumerate the genres of oral literature and their distinctiveness (10 Marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- a) How has evolutionary theory and functionalist school of thoughts impacted on the African oral literature scholarship. (10 Marks)
- b) Why is Performance as an aspect integral in the study of oral literature? (10 Marks)



QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

- a) Trace the development of oral literature discipline in East Africa and the controversy surrounding it (10 Marks)
- b) Interrogate the unique characteristics which have shaped drama in Kenya in the different phases. Use any two texts studied in this unit for your illustrations. (10 Marks)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- a) How does “The Trial of Dedan Kimathi” by Ngugi wa Thiong’o and Micere Mugo differ from “Aminata” by Francis Imbuga in terms of thematic concerns and aspects of style? (12 Marks)
- b) Examine the importance of fieldwork in the study of oral literature. (8 Marks)

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

Discuss the effectiveness of Dramatic strategies employed by Ngugi wa Thiong’o and Francis Imbuga in “Ngaika Ndenda” and “The Successor” respectively. How has knowledge of what constitutes Oral Literature enhanced the two playwrights delivery in the texts? (20 Marks)

