



ALUPE UNIVERSITY
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... Bastion of Knowledge...

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**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
ACADEMICS, RESEARCH AND STUDENT AFFAIRS**

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

2020/2021 ACADEMIC YEAR

FIRST YEAR SECOND SEMESTER REGULAR EXAMINATION

**FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF
EDUCATION (Arts)**

COURSE CODE: LIT 121

COURSE TITLE: CLASSICAL LITERARY THEORY

DATE: 19TH JULY, 2021

TIME: 1:00PM – 4:00PM

INSTRUCTION TO CANDIDATES

- **SEE INSIDE**

THIS PAPER CONSISTS OF THREE PRINTED PAGES

PLEASE TURN OVER

LIT 121: CLASSICAL LITERARY THEORY

STREAM: BED (Arts)

DURATION: 3 Hours

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- i. Answer Question **ONE** and any other **TWO** questions.
- ii. Do not write on the question paper.
- iii. Avoid using the same text to answer more than one question

Question One

- a. Literary theory, literary history and Literary criticism are linked. While literary history is concerned with the dynamics in Literature, literary theory forms the basis for criticism and the practice of criticism provides the data out of which theoretical conclusions can be drawn. With this in mind, explain the terms:
 - i. Literary theory (5 Marks)
 - ii. Literary criticism (5Marks)
 - iii. Literary history (5 Marks)
- b. Identify any SEVEN functions of Literary theory in the study of literature. (7 Marks)
- c. Discuss the mimetic nature of Classical Literary theory (8Marks)

Question Two

“The aim of Plato’s literary criticism is utilitarian; that of educating the young and forming them into good citizens of his ideal state”. It is from this practical point of view that he judges poetry and finds it wanting. With reference to this observation, explore Plato’s attack on poetry on the following grounds: (20 Marks)

- a. Moral
- b. Emotional
- c. Intellectual
- d. Utilitarian

Question Three

Aristotle’s approach to literature is mainly concerned with the nature and structure of poetry than with its origin. It is on this basis that he identifies the various types of poetry: epic, comedy, satire and tragedy. Basing your response on this:

- a. Identify the THREE levels of definition that distinguishes Tragedy from other forms of poetry (3Marks)
- b. Explain Aristotle’s examination of the plot of tragedy in relation to action. (7 Marks)

- c. Justify that **either** the character Okwonko in Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* or Oedipus in Sophocles' *Oedipus the King* is a tragic hero as per Aristotle's definition. (10 Marks)

Question Four

According to Longinus, 'sublimity is the greatest of all the literary virtues, the one which makes a work, whatever its minor defects, truly impressive.' based on this observation:

- a. Define the term sublime as presented by Longinus. (5 Marks)
- b. Critically evaluate the FIVE (5) sources of sublime that a reader (audience) or writer of a literary text must be cognizant of. (15Marks)

Question Five

According to Horace, 'Poetry is Sweet and useful'. Explain. (20Marks)