



# THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN AFRICA

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**MAIN EXAMINATION**

**MAY – JULY 2018 TRIMESTER**

**FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND COMMUNICATION**

**REGULAR PROGRAMME**

**MLT 517: AFRICAN-AMERICAN LITERATURE**

**Date: JULY 2018**

**Duration: 3 Hours**

**INSTRUCTIONS: Answer any FOUR Questions**

- Q1. a) Use Claude McKay's poem to prove that the Harlem Renaissance was the most significant socio- cultural and socio- political experience in the lives of the African -American intellectuals of the 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**(7 marks)**

If we must die—let it not be like hogs  
Hunted and penned in an inglorious spot,  
While round us bark the mad and hungry dogs,  
Making their mock at our accursed lot.  
If we must die—oh, let us nobly die,  
So that our precious blood may not be shed  
In vain; then even the monsters we defy  
Shall be constrained to honor us though dead!  
Oh, Kinsmen! We must meet the common foe;  
Though far outnumbered, let us show us brave,  
And for their thousand blows deal one deathblow!  
What though before us lies the open grave?  
Like men we'll face the murderous, cowardly pack,  
Pressed to the wall, dying, but fighting back

- b) Explain how Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man exposes the dilemma of an African under slavery bondage.

**(8 marks)**

- Q2. Employ examples from works of **THREE** dominant African American literary artists whose literary material is engrained in the American Southern Literature, Draw a dichotomy of “African literariness” and “American literariness”.  
(15 marks)
- Q3. Using Zora Nearle Hurston ’s Their Eyes Were Watching God and Alice Walker’s The Colour Purple evaluate how African-American women undo gendered stereo- types so as to achieve personal identity and a sense of self worthy  
(15 marks)
- Q4. Juxtapose the discourse of any **TWO** African-American literary scholars who illustrate what it means for one to lose the sense of belonging to ones’s own home.  
(15 marks)
- Q5. Comment on the contribution and inspiration of the Black American Churches on literary evolution and gradual political freedom of slaves.  
(15 marks)
- Q6. Employ your favourite text to attest to the idea of black aesthetic technique of storytelling as far as the creation of literary works by African- American writers is concerned.  
(15 marks)

**\*END\***