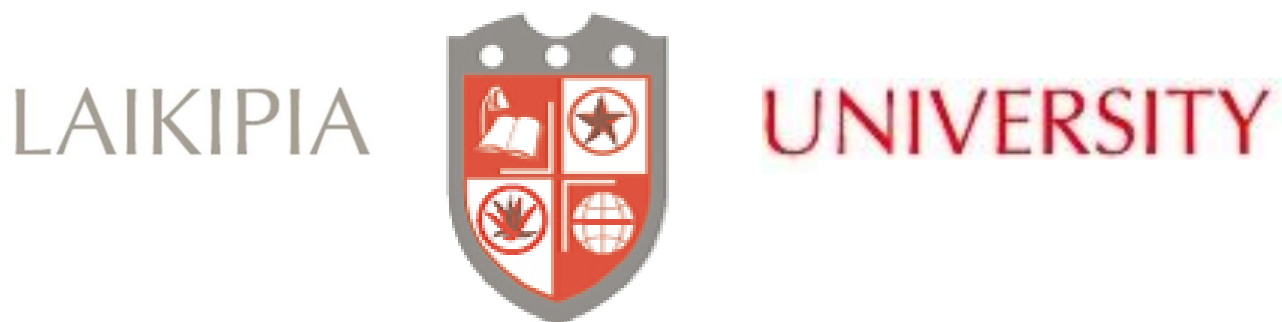




UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

1ST SEMESTER 2025/2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

**SECOND YEAR EXAMINATIONS FOR THE
DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)**

LIT 212: THEORY OF LITERATURE

STREAM: R

TIME: 2 HRS

DAY: FRIDAY (2.30-4.30PM)

DATE: 30/01/2026

THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF THREE (3 PAGES)

PLEASE DO NOT OPEN UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR SAYS SO.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Answer Question One and Any Two other Questions only. Total three questions

Avoid using same literary works to answer different questions

QUESTION ONE

1. Discuss the concept of *mimesis* as discussed by Plato and Aristotle. How do their views differ regarding the role and value of literature in society? How does Aristotle's idea of *catharsis* respond to Plato's concerns about emotional influence? **(20 marks)**

QUESTION TWO

2. Compare Formalism and Reader-Response Theories in terms of where meaning is located in a literary text. Using examples to illustrate your answer, show how each approach shapes the way we interpret literature? **(20 marks)**

QUESTION THREE

3.Either:

- (a) Using a suitable literary text, illustrate how Marxist literary theory examines power structures and class struggle in literature **(20 marks)**

Or

- (b) How has cultural criticism expanded Marxist ideas to include race, gender, and media in literary analysis? **(20 marks)**

QUESTION FOUR

4. Explain how Freud's and Jung's ideas contribute to psychoanalytic literary criticism. Using examples from literary works, show how unconscious desires or archetypal patterns may be used to interpret characters and plot? **(20 marks)**

QUESTION FIVE

5. How does Deconstruction challenge the idea of stable meaning in texts? Use examples to show how a text might contradict itself. **(20 marks)**

QUESTION SIX

6. Choose either Feminist or Queer Theory and explain how it reshapes our understanding of literature. Demonstrate how it addresses issues of gender, identity, and representation.

(20 marks)

QUESTION SEVEN

7. Either:

- (a) How does Postcolonial Theory help us understand literature in relation to history, culture, and identity? Use examples from literary works studied in the course to support your answer.

(20 marks)

Or

- (b) How does Ecocritical Theory help us understand literature in relation to nature, the environment, and human impact on the planet? Use examples from stories, poems, or plays studied in the course to support your answer.

(20 marks)