

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FINAL EXAMINATION 2005**

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LITERATURE

COURSE CODE: ENG103 / IDE-ENG103

TIME ALLOWED: 2 HRS.

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
- 1. Answer TWO questions, one from each section.**
 - 2. Each question carries 30 marks.**
 - 3. Incorrect use of English and conventions will be penalized.**
 - 4. Do not repeat material or write about the same text more than once.**
 - 5. This paper consists of 4 pages, cover page included.**

THIS PAPER SHOULD NOT BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTD BY THE INVIGILATOR.

SECTION A: THEORY Answer ONE question

1(a) Using illustrations from **one** of these novels – In My Father's House, A Christmas Carol, or Pains of a Maid - **describe** (no narration, please) how authors communicate their observations about life through the stories they tell about their characters. (*Focus on the main character.*) [20]

(b) Briefly discuss whether the character's story moved you and why. [10]

2 (a) Using illustrations from any one of these short stories ("The Suit", "Beggar my Neighbour", "Her Three Days"), explain the different types of characters in prose fiction. [15]

(b) Bring out the three applications and explain the different levels of 'Point of view' in prose fiction. [15]

3. What are the basic differences in terms of **plot, characterization, tone and mood**, between tragedy and comedy? Discuss, using illustrations from Julius Caesar and The Merchant of Venice.

4. Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow:

Sonnet 116

Let me not to the marriage of true minds
 Admit impediments. Love is not love
 Which alters when it alteration finds,
 Or bends with the remover to remove:
 Oh no! it is an ever-fixed mark
 That looks on tempests and is never shaken;
 It is the star to every wandering bark,
 Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.
 Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks
 Within his bending sickle's compass come;
 Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,
 But bears it out even to the edge of doom.
 If this be error and upon me proved,
 I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

- Identify and discuss the features which render the poem an English or Shakespearean sonnet. [15]
- Focusing on three well chosen examples, discuss how the poem's meaning is conveyed through its rich imagery. [15]

SECTION B: PRACTICAL CRITICISM Answer ONE question

5. Read the following poem and answer as directed:

An African Thunderstorm

From the west
Clouds come hurrying with the wind
Turning
Sharply
Here and there
Like a plague of locusts
Whirling
Tossing up things on its tail
Like a madman chasing nothing.

Pregnant clouds
Ride stately on its back
Gathering to perch on hills
Like dark sinister wings;
The Wind whistles by
And trees bend to let it pass.

In the village
Screams of delighted children
Toss and turn
In the din of whirling wind,
Women –
Babies clinging on their backs –
Dart about
In and out
Madly
The Wind whistles by
Whilst trees bend to let it pass.
Clothes wave like tattered flags
Flying off
To expose dangling breasts
As jagged blinding flashes
Rumble, tremble, and crack
Amidst the smell of fired smoke
And the pelting march of the storm.

- a) Briefly outline the situation captured in the poem. [8]
- b) With reference to stanza arrangement, line length and punctuation, how would you classify this poem? [7]

- c) Discuss the poet’s language use to appeal to the imagination and evoke various sensations. [10]
- d) Comment on the poem’s tone and mood. [5]

6. The Merchant of Venice William Shakespeare

“Although it is a comedy, The Merchant of Venice communicates a number of lessons to the reader.” Discuss how far you agree with this observation, focusing on **two** themes advanced by the play.

7. Julius Caesar: William Shakespeare

‘Looked at from an Aristotelian point of view, the play, Julius Caesar, is, despite its title, “the tragedy of Brutus”.’ Discuss.

8. In My Father’s House Ernest Gaines

Focusing mainly on plot structure and progression in In My Father’s House, discuss how Ernest Gaines introduces and advances the theme of father-son relationship within the black family in America.

9. A Christmas Carol Charles Dickens

“I wear the chain I forged in life ... I made it link by link, and yard by yard; I girded it on of my own free will, and of my own free will I wore it. Is its pattern strange to *you*? ... Or would you know ... the weight and length of the strong coil you bear yourself? It was full as heavy as this, seven Christmas Eves ago. You have laboured on it, since. It is a ponderous chain!”

Discuss the above observations by:

- a) Identifying the speaker and the person addressed. [4]
- b) Explaining what the excerpt means. [10]
- c) Commenting on the events and character transformation that follow these observations. [16]

10. Pains of a Maid Sarah Mkhonza

- a) Identify two themes outlined in Pains of a Maid and the characters used to depict them. [10]
- b) Explain how the novel’s setting aptly supports the exploration of these themes. [20]