

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS 2005**

**TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LITERATURE**

**COURSE CODE: 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 is four pages long, cover page included.

**THIS PAPER SHOULD NOT BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR**

**SECTION A: THEORY** Answer ONE question

1. Citing examples from one novel / short story and one play you have studied in this course, discuss the basic similarities and differences between prose and drama.
2. Bring out the four-part structure of a dramatic plot and any five dramatic techniques by citing examples from either Julius Caesar or The Merchant of Venice).
3. Read the two poems below and discuss the questions that follow:

**A Sudden Storm**

The wind howls, the trees sway,  
The loose house-top sheets clatter and clang,  
The open window shuts with a bang,  
And the sky makes night of the day.

Helter-skelter the parents run,  
Pressed with a thousand minor cares:  
“Hey, you there! Pack the house wares!  
And where on earth’s my son?”

Home skip the little children:  
“Where have you been, you naughty boy?”  
The child can feel nothing but joy,  
For he loves the approach of the rain.

The streets clear, the houses fill,  
The noise gathers as children shout  
To rival the raging wind without,  
And nought that can move is still –

A bright flash! – a lighted plain;  
Then, from the once-black heavens,  
Accompanied by noise that deafens,  
Steadily pours the rain.

**Poem For My Mother**

That isn’t everything, you said  
on the afternoon I brought a poem  
to you hunched over the wash tub

with your hands  
the shrivelled  
burnt granadilla  
skin of your hands  
covered by foam.

And my words  
slid like a ball  
of hard blue soap  
into the tub  
to be grabbed and used by you  
to rub the clothes.

A poem isn't all  
there is to life, you said  
with your blue-ringed gaze  
scanning the page  
once looking over my shoulder  
and back at the immediate  
dirty water

and my words  
being clenched  
smaller and  
smaller.

- a) Briefly summarise the meaning of each poem. [10]
- b) Carry out a comparative analysis of the form of the two poems. [20]

**SECTION B: Practical Criticism** Answer ONE question

4. A Christmas Carol Charles Dickens

Discuss how Dickens reveals his thematic intentions through his characterization of Scrooge as well as choice of incidents and setting in A Christmas Carol.

5. In My Father's House Ernest Gaines

- a) Describe how Ernest Gaines projects Robert X as a deprived young man in In My Father's House. [20]
- b) What is Gaines seeking to accomplish through his portrayal of Robert X? [10]

6. Pains of a Maid Sarah Mkhonza

- a) "Pains of a maid" specifically refers to whose pain? [5]
- b) Justifying your selection above, discuss the causes of the pains and how the character seeks to overcome them. [25]

7. The Merchant of Venice William Shakespeare

- a) In a well argued essay, discuss how the four stories which make up The Merchant of Venice – the bond story, the casket story, the ducats story and the rings story – are interlinked. [20]
- b) Briefly comment on which story interested you most and why. [10]

8. Julius Caesar: William Shakespeare

'Julius Caesar deals with "problems of character and morality that belong not only to Shakespeare's time, or Caesar's time, but to the whole of humankind at all times"  
 Discuss with the aid of examples from the text.