

51

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION 2005**

TITLE OF PAPER: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF ENGLISH LITERATURE

COURSE CODE: ENG 104/IDE ENG 104

TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS

**INSTRUCTIONS : 1. ANSWER ANY THREE QUESTIONS**

2. DO NOT REPEAT MATERIAL OR WRITE ABOUT THE SAME TEXT AT LENGTH MORE THAN ONCE
3. CANDIDATES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BRING ANY READING MATERIAL INTO THE EXAMINATION ROOM.
4. CORRECT USAGE OF ENGLISH WILL BE REWARDED AND GRAMMATICAL AND SPELLING MISTAKES PENALIZED.

**THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.**

Answer any three questions from the following:

Each question carries 20 marks

1. Describe any four characters from the list below from Chaucer's "General Prologue" to *The Canterbury Tales*:
  - a. The Prioress
  - b. The Friar
  - c. The Knight
  - d. Wife of Bath
  - e. The Monk
  - f. The Miller and
  - g. The Reeve
2. Describe the characteristic features of the Age of Chaucer.
3. Attempt a critical appreciation of Spenser's "Epithalamion".
4. Identify the main features of a tragedy.
5. Discuss the contrasting features that characterize the Yahoos and Houyhnhnms in Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*.
6. Shakespeare's *Hamlet* depicts the intrigues and subterfuges of royalty. It is a play for all times. Do you agree?
7. List and discuss three key themes in Sir Philip Sidney's sonnets from *Astrophil and Stella*.
8. In John Milton's *Paradise Lost* (Book I and IX), mankind is essentially striving to get back to God. Comment on this claim.