

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
FINAL EXAMINATION 2006

COURSE TITLE: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LITERATURE  
COURSE CODE: ENG103 / IDE-ENG103

TIME ALLOWED: 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: 1. Answer TWO questions, one from each section.

2. All the questions carry equal 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 4 pages long, cover page included.

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

## SECTION A: THEORY

1. Drawing your illustrations from ONE of the three novels studied in this course – A Christmas Carol, In My Father's House, Pains of a Maid – discuss how authors *structure* their novels' plots to achieve certain effects.
2. "According to Children's Britannica, a tragedy is a play whose plot features suffering and death and has an unhappy ending." To what extent does this definition apply to Julius Caesar? Give a well illustrated response.
3. "Commenting on the nature of comedy, the critic Martin Esslin has observed that as we, the audience, watch [or read] a comedy we laugh at the characters because we view them from the *outside* instead of from the *inside* as happens with tragedy." Does this assertion apply to any particular character in The Merchant of Venice? Discuss.
4. Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow:

"It's Over Now" A.H. Magagula (South Africa)

I remember those days when we used to  
Come to each other with faces full of smiles,  
With eyes full of joy and loving,  
Hearts full of longing.  
But now it's over.

I remember those days  
When we used to talk and never stopped.  
Mouths full of stammering and murmuring,  
Not knowing what to say and what to leave out.  
But don't be sorry for yourself, it's over now.

I remember those days  
When we used to sit under that musharagi tree,  
With arms around each other's neck,  
Owning all creatures and nature.  
Never remind yourself about it, it's history now.

I remember those days  
When we used to make some earthly promises,  
Not knowing that one day  
You will be the tornado that'll wreck my life apart.  
I may be dreaming but it's over now.

We used to see each other every time  
Laughter was our breakfast,

Smiles our lunch,  
Joy our supper,  
And love was our day and night dish.

- a) To what extent does the poem conform to poetic convention? [15]
- b) Cite and discuss any three interesting structural devices used in the poem. [15]

**SECTION B: PRACTICAL CRITICISM** Answer ONE question

5. Focusing on Phillip Martin and Robert X, discuss how Ernest Gaines has used the physiological aspect of characterization to advance theme in In My Father's House.
- 6 (a) Briefly explain (in not more than 20 lines) Matilda's transgression and the punishment she receives from her husband Philemon in "The Suit". [15]  
(b) In your view, does Matilda deserve this punishment? [15]
7. Identify the four stories that make up The Merchant of Venice and explain the causal relationship linking them.
8. "It may be argued that in Julius Caesar, Brutus' hamartia (tragic flaw) grows out of his very virtues." What are his virtues and how do they bring about his tragic downfall?
9. Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow:

"The Twin of Sleep" Robert Graves (England)

Death is the twin of Sleep, they say:  
For I shall rise renewed,  
Free from the cramps of yesterday,  
Clear-eyed and supple-thewed.

But though this bland analogy  
Helps other folk to face  
Decrepitude, senility,  
Madness, disease, disgrace,

I do not like Death's greedy looks:  
Give me his twin instead –  
Sleep never auctions off my books,  
My boots, my shirts, my bed.

- a) Briefly outline the meaning and theme of the poem. [12]

- b) What is the persona's standpoint on the question of death being "the twin of sleep"? [4]
- c) Comment on the poem's tone and mood. [4]
- d) Cite and discuss any TWO structural devices used in the poem. [5]
- e) Cite and discuss any TWO sound devices used in the poem. [5]