

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FINAL EXAMINATION 2006**

TITLE OF PAPER: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF ENGLISH LITERATURE

COURSE CODE: ENG 104/IDE ENG 104

TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS

**INSTRUCTIONS : 1. ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS. EACH QUESTION
CARRIES 30 MARKS.**

**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 two questions:

1. John Milton: Paradise Lost Books I and IX

“Milton’s epic deals with the major opposition between good and evil” – Discuss this statement with special reference to Books I and IX.

2. William Shakespeare: Hamlet

A play in which schemes and subterfuges prevail in the rivalry between the characters. Is this a fair assessment of Shakespeare’s Hamlet?

3. Edmund Spenser: “Epithalamion”

“Epithalamion” is reputedly a Christian poem with a completely pagan atmosphere. Substantiate or refute this claim.

4. Jonathan Swift: Gulliver’s travels

“Despite his instinctive recoiling from them, Gulliver has to admit with shame and horror that he is more like the Yahoos than the Houyhnhnms” – Discuss.

5. Geoffrey Chaucer: “General Prologue” to The Canterbury Tales

- a) Discuss any two characters from each of the group mentioned below
- i) Ecclesiastical group
 - ii) Aristocratic group
 - iii) Middle class
 - iv) Commoners

or

- b) Does Chaucer’s presentation of the Miller and the Reeve in “The General Prologue” bear testimony to the stories they tell in the Miller and the Reeve’s tales?