

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FINAL EXAMINATION 2007

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 (Answer ONE question from this section)

Question One

Taking your illustrations from the texts offered in the course, including the short stories, identify and discuss **three** basic similarities and **three** basic differences between prose and drama. [30]

Question Two

- a) Identify the four basic -as well as the supporting- elements of prose and drama. [6]
- b) Select ONE of these elements and discuss with examples from any of the texts studied in the course (including the short stories) how an author uses it to achieve his/her thematic intentions. [24]

Question Three

Focusing on characterization in Julius Caesar and Twelfth Night, discuss the guiding principle in the respective creation of a comedy and tragedy. *Focus your discussion on the main characters.* [30]

Question Four

Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow:

“The Song of Sunrise” Mbuyiseni Oswald Mtshali

The sword of daybreak
snips the shroud
of the night from the sky,
and the morning
peeps through the blankets
like a baby rising
from its cot
to listen to the
peal of the bell.

Arise! Arise!
All Workers!
To work! To work!
You must go!

Buses rumble,
Trains rattle,
Taxis hoot.

I shuffle in the queue
with feet that patter
on the station platform,
and stumble into the coach
that squeezes me like a lemon
of all the juice of my life.

Using the above poem for illustrations, discuss the use of free verse as opposed to conventional poetic rules in poetry writing. [30]

SECTION B: PRACTICAL CRITICISM (Answer ONE question)

Question Five

- a) In not more than 12 lines briefly identify and discuss what you consider to be the central theme of In My Father's House. [7]
- b) Discuss Gaines' use of multiple situations and 'voices' to advance this theme. [18]
- c) Briefly state your response to the treatment of this theme. [5]

Question Six

"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? [30]

Question Seven

- a) Identify and briefly discuss two central themes advanced in Twelfth Night. [10]
- b) Identify the characters that are used to advance these themes and briefly highlight their roles. [15]
- c) What lessons, if any, are imparted through these themes? [5]

Question Eight

"Leopard"

Gentle hunter
his tail plays on the ground
while he crushes the skull.

Beautiful death
who puts on a spotted robe
when he goes to his victim.
Playful killer
whose loving embrace
splits the antelope's heart.

- a) Briefly identify and discuss the characteristics which are associated with the leopard. [10]
- b) What is the persona's standpoint on the leopard's hunting skills? [5]
- c) Briefly state the poem's theme and discuss its use of language to communicate meaning. [10]
- d) Briefly comment on the poem's form. [5]