

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION 2007

TITLE OF PAPER: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND TO 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.

1. Geoffrey Chaucer: "The General Prologue" to The Canterbury Tales

Some of the characters in Chaucer's "General Prologue" manifest the opposite of what a Christian pilgrim should be. Sustain this claim with clear examples from the book.

2. Edmund Spenser: Epithalamion

Spenser's poem is a Christian song with supernatural elements situated in a fading Greek classical tradition. What are its major Christian and classical influences?

3. Jonathan Swift: Gulliver's Travels

Highlight and briefly discuss the thematic relevance of Gulliver's journeys to the land of Yahoos and Houyhnhnms.

4. William Shakespeare: Hamlet

Hamlet deals with the most important of all human problems: thought versus action. Discuss this statement with relevant illustrations from the play.

5. Discuss the development of drama from the period of miracle and mystery plays to the artistic period in English literary history.