

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FINAL EXAMINATION 2007

TITLE OF PAPER: A SURVEY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE

COURSE CODE: ENG 205 / IDE ENG 205

TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: 1. ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS, ONE FROM EACH SECTION. 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.

Section – A: Age of Romanticism

1. William Wordsworth: “Composed upon Westminster Bridge”

“In this sonnet, Wordsworth clearly points out the paradox between artificial and natural things. He further points to the dependence of humans on nature and the need for preserving it.” Discuss.

2. John Keats: “Ode on a Grecian Urn”

“The permanence of art is dependent on its frozen and immobile nature. The tragedy as well as the beauty of life lies in its fragility and transience.” How does Keats juxtapose these ideas in his ode?

Section – B: The Victorian Era and Twentieth Century

3. Gerard Manley Hopkins: “God’s Grandeur” and “Pied Beauty”

“The magnificent nature and image of the Supreme Being is eloquently recalled, reaffirmed and rationalised in the two poems by Hopkins.” Comment on this view. (See poems attached).

4. T. S. Eliot: 'The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock'

"Alfred Prufrock is an unromantic character who takes refuge in self-mockery".

Discuss this statement with apt illustrations taken from the poem.

5. Virginia Woolf: "Shakespeare's Sister" (from A Room of One's Own)

How does Woolf explain the exclusion and marginalization of women writers and the absence of a distinctive female voice and subject matter from the canons of English literary history?

6. D. H. Lawrence: "The Horse-Dealer's Daughter"

How is human indifference and inhumanity to fellow humans amply illustrated in Lawrence's short story?

7. Robert Bolt: A Man for all Seasons

"As a pilgrim on Earth, a human being is often confronted with tough choices which run against the general tide of events, but which reaffirm his individual existence before his maker, God." How do Thomas More's choices between his state and his church reveal existentialism in Renaissance England?

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;¹
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed.² Why do men then now not reck his rod?
5 Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for^o all this, nature is never spent;
10 There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs—
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

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1918

Pied¹ Beauty

Glory be to God for dappled things—
For skies of couple-colour as a brinded² cow;
For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim;
Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls,³ finches' wings;
5 Landscape plotted and pieced—fold, fallow, and plough;⁴
And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim.^o

All things counter, original, spare,⁵ strange;
Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)
With swift, slow; sweet; sour; adazzle; dim;
10 He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change:
Praise him.

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