

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

MAIN

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. THE TOTAL MARKS FOR THE EXAMINATION = 60%.

- 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. In Medieval England, religion was viewed largely as a vehicle to enhance social status and not just an avenue to strengthen one's faith in God. Discuss this statement with supporting examples from Geoffrey Chaucer's "General Prologue" to *The Canterbury Tales* and "The Miller and The Reeve's Tales".
2. William Shakespeare's tragedy, *Hamlet*, chiefly displays schemes, intrigues and subterfuges that characterize human relations at the palace. Comment on this view with convincing evidence from the text.
3. Edmund Spenser's "Epithalamion" celebrates a social event which is infused with two rival and distant world views. Explain this statement convincingly. Which two world views are being referred to?
4. "Astrophil and Stella" is Phillip Sidney's attempt to confront dreams with the reality. However, his characters remain unrealistic to the end and the problem instead becomes compounded. Do you agree? Substantiate your views with detailed references to the poem.
5. Outline and discuss John Milton's key contentions in *Paradise Lost*, Books One and Nine.
6. Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* is a fictional allegory of human imagination. It is also a satire on British and European attitudes to their colonies and subjects. Elucidate this view with close reference to the text.