

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND LITERATURE**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS PAPER, JULY 2008**

- TITLE OF PAPER** : **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF ENGLISH**
- 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 GIVEN BY THE INVIGILATOR.**

1. The “General Prologue” and “The Miller and Reeve’s Tales” in Chaucer’s *The Canterbury Tales* bear traits of the English character and traits that are still valid even today. Do you agree? Discuss.
2. Examine “Epithalamion” as a Spousal ode situated within two opposing traditions.
3. Show the major similarities and differences in Gulliver’s experiences on his journeys to Lilliput and Brobdingnag.
4. How does procrastination shape events in Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*?
5. Milton’s *Paradise Lost* (Books One and Nine) is an allegory of human frailties and inconsistencies. It also deals with the consequences of wanton and colossal disobedience to our Creator, God, by spiritual and human essences. Comment on this view and sustain or reject the trend of thought.
6. Sydney’s “Astrophil and Stella” is aptly tagged “the Star-gazer and the Star”. What are the problems that negate the attainment of mutual conjugal love in the poem?