

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FINAL EXAMINATIONS 2008

TITLE OF PAPER: A STUDY OF THE NOVEL

COURSE CODE: ENG 306/ IDE/ENG 306

TIME ALLOWED: 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer QUESTION ONE plus ONE other question.
2. Do not discuss the same text more than once.
3. Correct expression and adherence to literary conventions will be rewarded; the reverse will be penalized.
4. All the questions carry equal marks.
5. This paper is 3 pages long; cover page included.

**THIS PAPER SHOULD NOT BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN
GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR**

Question One (Compulsory)

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

Either:

- a. Write a well argued and well illustrated essay in which you show how *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* qualifies as a romantic epic.

Or:

- b. Give a critical appreciation of *Sir Gawain* as both an allegory of the knightly code of conduct and a critique of the romantic idealization of knights.

Question Two

Moll Flanders (1722) Daniel Defoe

Cite and discuss the factors which qualify Moll as a picaresque heroine.

Question Three

Pamela (1740) Samuel Richardson

Either:

Discuss the visible evolution in terms of plot and characterization seen in *Sir Gawain and Pamela*.

Or:

Is Pamela serious or relevant enough to impart enduring moral lessons to today's youth? Discuss in relation to **three** well chosen points.

Question Four

Tess of the D'Urbervilles (1890) Thomas Hardy

Focusing on TWO elements of the novel and drawing your illustrations from Pamela and Tess of the D'Urbervilles, discuss the development of the novel from the eighteenth century to the nineteenth centuries.

Question Five

Nervous Conditions (1988) Tsitsi Dangarembga

Select your favourite character in Nervous Conditions and discuss his/her role in relation to the novel's themes. State why you like this character.

Question Six

The Prodigal Husband (1999) Lazarus Miti

How sensitive is Miti in his portrayal of gender issues? Discuss with reference to specific characters and themes.

Question Seven

The Tears of Winnie Mandela () Njabulo Ndebele

The Heart of Redness (2000) Zakes Mda

Focusing on theme and technique, discuss how the novel has both evolved over time and continued to be a medium for advancing socio-political issues as shown in either Ndebele's The Tears of Winnie Mandela and Mda's The Heart of Redness.