

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FINAL EXAMINATION 2008/9

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LITERATURE

COURSE CODE: ENG 103

TIME ALLOWED: 2 HOURS

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
1. Answer TWO questions, one from each section.
 2. Each question carries 30 marks.
 3. Incorrect use of English and literary conventions will be penalised.
 4. Do not repeat material or write about the same text more than once.
 5. This paper consists of 3 pages, cover page included.

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

SECTION A: THEORY Answer ONE question from this section.

Question One

According to *Children's Britannica*, literature constitutes "writings that are valued because of their power or their beauty. Literature records how people feel and think and helps them to understand themselves and the world in which they live." Clearly demonstrate your grasp of this definition by applying it to A Christmas Carol. [30]

Question Two

Give illustrated definitions of FIVE of the following dramatic terms, drawing your illustrations from the two plays studied on the course: soliloquy, dramatic irony, situational irony, tragic hero, villain, pathetic fallacy, rising action, falling action, court jester, festive comedy. [30]

Question Three

With the aid of examples from the two plays studied on the course, comparatively discuss the respective Shakespearean beginning and ending of a tragedy and comedy. [30]

SECTION B: PRACTICAL CRITICISM Answer ONE question

Question Four

- a) Define theme. [5]
- b) Identify the central theme of either "The Suit" or A Christmas Carol, and discuss Themba's or Dickens' use of key characters to advance it. [25]

Question Five

- a) Identify the respective villains in Julius Caesar and Twelfth Night. [6]
- b) Discuss how their portrayal, especially their respective endings, conforms to the dictates of Shakespearean tragedy and comedy. [24]

Question Six

Read the excerpt below and answer the questions that follow:

Octavius, I have seen more days than you,
And though we lay these honours on this man
To ease ourselves of his divers sland'rous loads,

He shall but bear them as the ass bears gold,
To groan and sweat under the business,
Either led or driven as we point the way;
And having brought our treasure where we will,
Then take we down his load, and turn him off,
Like to the empty ass, to shake his ears
And graze in commons.

- a) Identify the play where this speech is found. [2]
- b) Identify the speaker. [2]
- c) To whom is he speaking? [2]
- d) Who is he talking about? [2]
- e) Briefly highlight the context in which the speech is made. In other words, describe the circumstances surrounding the speech. [5]
- f) Describe your reaction to the speaker's character at this point. [5]
- g) Rewrite the speech in your own words. [12]