

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FINAL EXAMINATION 2009

COURSE TITLE: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF ENGLISH LITERATURE

COURSE CODE: ENG 104/IDE-ENG 104

TIME ALLOWED: TWO HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: 1. Answer TWO questions.

2. Your answers should be one and half to three pages long.
3. Do not repeat material or write about the same text more than once.
4. Correct use of English and literary conventions will be rewarded and the reverse will be penalised.

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED
BY THE INVIGILATOR

The Canterbury Tales –Chaucer

1. Even though animals have been used in “The Nun’s Priest’s Tale” human sentiments and behaviour are reflected. Discuss. [30]

Hamlet –Sakespeare

2. Revenge tragedy features the hero’s desire for revenge. How is this manifested in this play? [30]

Sonnets from Astrophil and Stella

3. Discuss the structure and theme of this sonnet. [30]

Desire, though thou my old companion art,
And oft so clings to my pure Love that I
One from the other scarcely can descry,^o *distinguish.*
While each doth blow the fire of my heart,
5 Now from thy fellowship I needs must part:
Venus is taught with Dian’s wings to fly;⁷
I must no more in thy sweet passions lie;
Virtue’s gold now must head my Cupid’s dart.
Service and honor, wonder with delight,
10 Fear to offend, will worthy to appear,⁸
Care shining in mine eyes, faith in my sprite:^o *spirit*
These things are left me by my only dear;
But thou, Desire, because thou wouldst have all,
Now banished art. But yet alas how shall?

4. What similarities and differences have you noted in the sonnets of Sidney and Spenser? [30]

Paradise lost (Books I and IX) –Milton

5. What features of an epic are manifest in these texts? [30]

Gulliver’s Travels –Swift

6. What human vices are satirised in Gulliver’s voyage to Lilliput? [30]