

# UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

## SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION 2008/2009

**TITLE OF PAPER : INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LITERATURE**

**COURSE CODE : IDE-ENG 103**

**TIME ALLOWED : 2 HOURS**

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
1. Answer two questions, one from each section.
  2. All questions carry equal marks; [30 marks].
  3. Incorrect use of English and literary conventions will be penalized.
  4. Do not repeat material or write about the same text more than once.
  5. All examples should be within the texts prescribed or recommended for the course.

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

## SECTION A: THEORY

Answer ONE question

### Question 1

Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow.

**"Let me not to the marriage of true minds" - William Shakespeare**

Let me not to the marriage of true minds  
Admit impediments. Love is not love  
Which alters when it alteration finds,  
Or bends with the remover to remove:  
O no; it is an ever-fixed mark,  
That looks on tempests, and is never shaken;  
It is the star to every wandering bark,  
Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.  
Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks  
Within his bending sickle's compass come;  
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,  
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.  
If this be error, and upon me prov'd,  
I never writ, nor no man ever lov'd.

- a) Define literature. [5]
- b) Discuss how the poem demonstrates the definition of literature. [25]

### Question 2

Basing your discussion on either of these stories, "The Suit" and "Beggar my Neighbour", distinguish between plot structure and plot progression. *Your essay should not exceed 3 pages.* [30]

### Question 3

Discuss the basic differences in terms of plot, characterization, tone and mood between tragedy and comedy. *Draw your illustrations from Julius Caesar and Twelfth Night.*

## SECTION B: PRACTICAL CRITICISM

Answer ONE Question.

### Question 4

Shakespeare in Twelfth Night denies that life is full of problems, but acknowledges the fact that people cause each other pain. Discuss how Shakespeare demonstrates his perception. How far do you agree with it?

### Question 5

- a) Demonstrate clearly why you would agree with Anthony that Brutus was the “the noblest Roman of them all.” [15]
- b) How does Anthony’s speech constitute the play’s denouement? [15]

### Question 6

Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow.

“Red Silk Stockings” – Langston Hughes

Put on yo’ red silk stockings,  
Black gal.  
Go out an’ let the white boys  
Look at yo’ legs.

Ain’t nothin’ to do for you, nohow.  
Round this town.-  
You’s too pretty.  
Put on yo’ red stockings, gal,  
An’ tomorrow’s chile’ll  
Be a high yaller.

Go out an’ let de white boys  
Look at yo’ legs.

- a) Briefly discuss the situation presented by the poem. [15]
- b) Describe the tone of the poem together with the mood it creates. [10]
- c) Briefly state the theme of the poem. [5]