

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION 2010

COURSE TITLE: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF ENGLISH LITERATURE

COURSE CODE: ENG 104

TIME ALLOWED: TWO HOURS

- INSTRUCTIONS:
1. Answer TWO questions.
 2. Your answers should not exceed three pages.
 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

Canterbury Tales Chaucer

1. Using "The general prologue," discuss how Chaucer uses the pilgrimage to satirise both individuals and institutions. [30]

Selections from Amoretti Spenser and Astrophil and Stella Sidney

2. Compare and contrast the following sonnets in terms of structure and theme. [30]

31

With how sad steps, O Moon, thou climb'st the skies,
How silently, and with how wan a face!

What, may it be that even in heavenly place
That busy archer^o his sharp arrows tries? *Cupid*
Sure, if that long-with-love-acquainted eyes
Can judge of love, thou feel'st a lover's case;
I read it in thy looks: thy languished grace,
To me that feel the like, thy state descries.^o *reveals*
Then even of fellowship, O Moon, tell me,
Is constant love deemed there but want of wit?^o *lack of intelligence*
Are beauties there as proud as here they be?
Do they above love to be loved, and yet
Those lovers scorn whom that love doth possess?
Do they call virtue there ungratefulness?¹

Sonnet 67⁷

Lyke as a huntsman after weary chace,
Seeing the game from him escapt away,
Sits downe to rest him in some shady place,
With panting hounds beguiled^o of their pray: *deluded*
So after long pursuit and vaine assay,^o *attempt*
When I all weary had the chace forsooke,
The gentle deare returnd the selfe-same way,
Thinking to quench her thirst at the next^o brooke. *nearby*
There she beholding me with mylder looke,
Sought not to fly, but fearelesse still did bide:
Till I in hand her yet halfe trembling tooke,
And with her owne goodwill hir ffirmely tyde.
Strange thing me seemd to see a beast so wyld,
So goodly wonne with her owne will beguyld.

Hamlet Shakespeare

3. Why does Hamlet call his play "Mousetrap" and how does it facilitate his attempts to avenge his father's death? [30]

Paradise Lost Milton

4. Basing your answer on Book I, comment on how Milton uses the epic simile to present the state of the fallen Angels. [30]

Gulliver's Travels Swift

5. Discuss how desire for power and control is reflected through the voyage to Brobdingnag. [30]