

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION 2011

MAIN

TITLE OF COURSE: A STUDY OF POETRY

COURSE CODE: ENG 206/ IDE-ENG206

TIME ALLOWED: TWO HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer TWO questions.
2. Do not repeat material or write about the same text more than once.
3. Correct use of English and literary conventions will be rewarded and the contrary will be penalised.

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

1. Analyse the following sonnet in terms of TYPE, STRUCTURE, THEME and RHYME.

Composed upon Westminster Bridge

Earth has not anything to show more fair:
Dull would he be of soul who could pass by
A sight so touching in its majesty:
This City now doth like a garment wear
The beauty of the morning; silent, bare,
Ships, towers, domes, theatres, and temples lie
Open unto the fields, and to the sky;
All bright and glittering in the smokeless air.
Never did sun more beautifully steep
In his first splendour, valley, rock, or hill;
Ne'er saw I, never felt, a calm so deep!
The river glideth at his own sweet will:
Dear God! the very houses seem asleep;
And all that mighty heart is lying still!

William Wordsworth

2. (a) Identify the poem's subgenre (5)
(b) Autumn is personified in this poem. How is this personification reinforced through the use of imagery? [30]

To Autumn

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run;
To bend with apples the mossed cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease; 10
For Summer has o'erbrimmed their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
Or on a half-reaped furrow sound asleep,
Drowsed with the fume of poppies, while thy hook
Spare the next swath and all its twinèd flowers;
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep 20
Steady thy laden head across a brook;
Or by a cider-press, with patient look,
Thou watchest the last oozings, hours by hours,

Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too, —
While barrèd clouds bloom the soft-dying day
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
Among the river shallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn; 30
Hedge-crickets sing; and now with treble soft
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft,
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

John Keats

3. "The force of this elegy comes from the honesty with which the poet writes about his own desperate situation." Discuss this statement in relation to the poem below.

Chidiock Tichborne (c. 1568–1586)

Tichborne's Elegy

Elegy Written with His Own Hand in the Tower before His Execution

My prime of youth is but a frost of cares,
My feast of joy is but a dish of pain,
My crop of corn is but a field of tares,
And all my good is but vain hope of gain;
5 The day is past, and yet I saw no sun,
And now I live, and now my life is done.

weeds

My tale was heard, and yet it was not told,
My fruit is fall'n, and yet my leaves are green,
My youth is spent, and yet I am not old,
10 I saw the world, and yet I was not seen;
My thread is cut, and yet it is not spun,
And now I live, and now my life is done.

I sought my death, and found it in my womb,
I looked for life, and saw it was a shade,
15 I trod the earth, and knew it was my tomb,
And now I die, and now I was but made;
My glass^o is full, and now my glass is run,
And now I live, and now my life is done.

hourglass

4. What features of a ballad are reflected in the following extract? [30]

I

O, what can ail thee, knight-at-arms,
Alone and palely loitering?
The sedge has wither'd from the lake,
And no birds sing.

II

O, what can ail thee, knight-at-arms,
So haggard and so woe-begone?
The squirrel's granary is full,
And the harvest's done.

III

I see a lilly on thy brow,
With anguish moist and fever dew; 10
And on thy cheeks a fading rose
Fast withereth too.

IV

I met a lady in the meads,
Full beautiful – a faery's child,
Her hair was long, her foot was light,
And her eyes were wild.

V

I made a garland for her head,
And bracelets too, and fragrant zone;
She look'd at me as she did love,
And made sweet moan. 20

VI

I set her on my pacing steed,
And nothing else saw all day long;
For sidelong would she bend, and sing
A faery's song.

5. What character flaw does the persona display in "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock?" [30]