

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION 2011**

**TITLE OF PAPER: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF ENGLISH LITERATURE**

**COURSE CODE: IDE-ENG 104**

**TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Answer any two questions. Each question carries 30 marks. The total marks for the examination is 60%.
2. Do not repeat material or write about the same text at length more than once.
3. Candidates are not allowed to bring any reading material into the examination room.
4. 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.**

**QUESTION 1**

**Geoffrey Chaucer: "The General Prologue" to The Canterbury Tales**

a) Define satire. Is the Miller's satire of the nobility and the clergy effective, or does his tale end up satirizing the upper class only at the expense of the peasantry? [30]

Or

b) How do the Miller's and the Nun's Priest's tales reveal folk medieval practices, beliefs, and sensibilities in England. [30]

**QUESTION 2**

**Edmund Spenser - Epithalamion**

a) Discuss how, like Chaucer, Spenser captures the spirit of Gothic double vision. [30]

Or

b) The Epithalamion fuses traditional features with strong personal elements. Discuss. [30]

**QUESTION 3**

**John Milton – Paradise Lost Book I & IX**

Discuss the characteristic features of an epic with reference to Milton's Paradise Lost Book I.

[30]

**QUESTION 4**

**Sir Philip Sidney- Astrophil & Stella**

How does Sidney's poems From Astrophil and Stella attempt to achieve the extraordinary out of the ordinary background? Do they project unrealistic ideals?

[30]

**QUESTION 5**

**William Shakespeare - Hamlet**

The world in Hamlet is a world of appearances and contradictions. Do you agree? Support your answer. [30]