

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION 2011/12

COURSE TITLE: A STUDY OF POETRY

COURSE CODE: ENG206 /IDE-ENG206

TIME ALLOWED: TWO HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer **QUESTION 1a** or **1b**, plus one other question.
2. ***Please note: Candidates who answer Q1a should also submit the part of the examination paper with question 1a.**
3. This paper consists of 8 pages, cover page included.

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

Question 1

EITHER:

a) Read the sonnets below and answer the questions that follow:

i) "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!

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ii) "Sonnet 75"

One day I wrote her name upon the strand,	
But came the waves and washed it away;	
Agayne I wrote it with a second hand,	
But came the tyde, and made my paynes his pray.	prey
"Vayne man," sayd she, "that doest in vaine assay,	attempt
A mortal thing so to immortalize,	
For I my selve shall lyke to this decay,	
And eek* my name bee wiped out lykewize."	also
"Not so," quod* I, "let baser things devize*	quote, contrive
To dy in dust, but you shall live by fame:	
My verse your vertues rare shall eternize,	
And in the heavens wryte your glorious name.	
Where when as death shall all the world subdew,	
Our love shall live, and later life renew."	

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iii) "Sonnet 116"

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 wand'ring bark,
 Whose worth's unknown, although his highth 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 proved,
 I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

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iv) "Death Be Not Proud"

Death, be not proud, though some have called thee
 Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so;
 For those whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow
 Die not, poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me.
 From rest and sleep, which but thy pictures be,
 Much pleasure; then from thee much more must flow,
 And soonest our best men with thee do go:
 Rest of their bones, and soul's delivery.

Thou art slave to fate, chance, kings, and desperate men,
 And dost with poison, war, and sickness dwell,
 And poppy*, or charms can make us sleep as well
 And better than thy stroke; why swell'st* thou then?
 One short sleep past, we wake eternally,
 And death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die.

opium
 be puffed up with pride

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1. Scan each sonnet using the letters of the alphabet. [8]
2. Indicate each sonnet's rhyme scheme in the provided spaces. [4]
3. Indicate the type of sonnet. [8]
4. State the stanza division of each sonnet. [10]

OR

b) Select one sonnet from above and:

1. State the form and subtype of the sonnet, basing your answer on its rhyme scheme and line arrangement. [8]
2. Identify the sonnet's main theme and comment on the overall situation it presents. [10]
3. Focusing on well-chosen examples, discuss how certain linguistic forms or devices have enriched the sonnet's meaning. [12]

Question 2

Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow:

'The Echoing Green' William Blake

The sun does rise,
 And make happy the skies.
 The merry bell ring
 To welcome the Spring.
 The skylark and thrush,
 The birds of the bush,
 Sing louder around,
 To the bells' cheerful sounds.
 While our sports shall be seen

On the Echoing Green.

Old John with white hair
Does laugh away care,
Sitting under the oak,
Among the folk.
They laugh at our play,
And soon they all say:
"Such, such were the joys,
When we all, girls and boys,
In our youth-time were seen,
On the Echoing Green."

Till the little ones weary
No more can be merry;
The sun does descend,
And our sports have an end:
Round the laps of their mothers,
Many sisters and brothers,
Like birds in their nest,
Are ready for rest;
And sport no more seen,
On the Darkening Green.

- a) State the theme and briefly outline the situation presented by the poem. (10)
- b) Discuss how the poet uses the poem's three stanza form to capture a normal day spent on the Echoing Green. [10]
- c) Discuss the poet's skilful use of imagery to help advance the poem's theme and capture a state of rural bliss. (10)

Question 3

Carefully read each excerpt below and thereafter identify its genre and give reasons for your choice. [30]

- (i) Pray why are you so bare, so bare,
Oh, bough of the old oak-tree;
And why, when I go through the shade you throw,
Runs a shudder over me?

My leaves were green as best, I throw,
And sap ran free in my veins,
But I saw in the moonlight dim and weird
A guiltless victim's pains.

- (ii) So peaceful they lie, so dead.

A gloomy cell their bed.
 But yet they live in me
 Who now their course doth see –
 The course by them begun
 Beneath our African sun.
 You sons of Africa
 You are our guiding star.

- (iii) Thou still unravish'd bride of quietness,
 Thou foster-child of silence and slow time,
 Sylvan historian, who canst thus express
 A flowery tale more sweetly than our rhyme:
 What leaf-fring'd legend haunts about thy shape
 Of deities or mortals, or of both,
 In Tempe or the dales of Arcady?
 What men or gods are these? What maidens loth?
 What mad pursuit? What struggle to escape?
 What pipes and timbrels? What wild ecstasy?

- (iv) The price seemed reasonable, location
 Indifferent. The landlady swore she lived
 Off premises. Nothing remained
 But self-confession. 'Madam,' I warned.
 'I hate a wasted journey – I am African.'
 Silence. Silenced transmission of
 Pressurized good-breeding. Voice, when it came,
 Lipstick coated, long gold-rolled
 Cigarette-holder pipped. Caught I was, foully.
 'HOW DARK?' ...I had not misheard ...

Question 4

Read each of the two poems below and discuss why one is free verse and the other is conventional in form. Your discussion should be supported by an adequate analysis of each poem's form. [30]

"To Daffodils" Robert Herrick

Fair daffodils, we weep to see
 You haste away so soon:
 As yet the early rising sun
 Has not attained his noon.
 Stay, stay,
 Until the hasting day
 Has run
 But to the Evensong;
 And, having prayed together, we

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Will go with you along.

We have short time to stay, as you,
We have as short a spring;
As quick a growth to meet decay,
As you, or anything.
We die,
As your hours do, and dry
Away,
Like to the summer's rain;
Or as the pearls of morning dew
Ne'er to be found again.

"Poem for My Mother" Jennifer Davids

That isn't everything, you said
on the afternoon I brought a poem
to you hunched over the washtub
with your hands
the shriveled
burnt granadilla
skin of your hands
covered by foam.

And my words
slid like a ball
of hard blue soap
into the tub
to be grabbed and used by you
to rub the clothes.

A poem isn't all
there is to life, you said
with your blue-ringed gaze
scanning the page
once looking over my shoulder
and back at the immediate
dirty water

and my words
being clenched
smaller and
smaller.
