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UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION, JULY 2012

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

COURSE CODE: **IDE-ENG104**

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

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer any two questions. Each question carries 30 marks.
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**

Discuss "The Miller's Tale" as a satire not only of the nobility but also of the lower class. [30]

ANSWER EITHER**QUESTION 2A****Edmund Spenser: Epithalamion**How is the passage of time prominent in Epithalamion? [30]**OR****QUESTION 2B**What mixed attitude toward love does Spenser express in The Amoretti? [30]**QUESTION 3**

Read the poem below and answer the question that follows:

Philip Sidney Astrophil and Stella**1**

Loving in truth, and fain in verse my love to show
 That she (dear She) might take some pleasure of my pain:
 Pleasure might cause her read, reading might make her know,
 Knowledge might pity win, and pity grace obtain;
 I sought fit words to paint the blackest face of woe,
 Studying inventions fine, her wits to entertain:
 Oft turning others' leaves, to see if thence would flow
 Some fresh and fruitful showers upon my sun-burn'd brain.
 But words came halting forth, wanting Invention's stay,
 Invention, Nature's child, fled step-dame Study's blows,
 And others' feet still seem'd but strangers in my way.
 Thus, great with child to speak, and helpless in my throes,
 Biting my truant pen, beating myself for spite--
 "Fool," said my Muse to me, "look in thy heart and write."

Question

Discuss the characteristic features of sonnets with reference to the above sonnet from Sydney's sonnets.

QUESTION 4

William Shakespeare – Hamlet

Bring out the characteristic features of a tragedy with special reference to Hamlet. [30]

QUESTION 5

John Milton: Paradise Lost Books I and IX

Discuss the characteristics of an epic with reference to Milton's Paradise Lost Book 1. [30]