

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION, MAY 2013

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 penalized.

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INVIGILATOR

**Question 1**

Using the following characters IN *Canterbury Tales* discuss how Chaucer satirizes both the religious and non-religious members of the community of his time.

- (a) Absalon (6)
- (b) The Friar (8)
- (c) Nicholas (8)
- (d) The carpenter's wife, Alison (8)

**Question 2**

Compare the following sonnets in terms of structure and the way love is depicted. (30)

Comming to kisse her lyps (such grace I found)  
Me seemd I smelt a gardin of sweet flowres  
That dainty odours from them threw around,  
For damzels fit to decke their lovers bowres.  
5 Her lips did smell lyke unto Gillyflowers,<sup>o</sup> carnations  
Her ruddy cheeks lyke unto Roses red;  
Her snowy browes lyke budded Bellamoures,<sup>6</sup>  
Her lovely eyes like Pincks but newly spred,  
Her goodly bosome lyke a Strawberry bed,  
10 Her neck lyke to a bounch of Cullambynes;  
Her brest lyke lillyes, ere theyr leaves be shed,  
Her nipples lyke yong blossomd Jessemynes.<sup>o</sup> jasmynes  
Such fragrant flowres doe give most odorous smell,  
But her sweet odour did them all excell.

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<sup>o</sup> his sharp arrows tries?  
5 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.  
Then even of fellowship, O Moon, tell me,  
10 Is constant love deemed there but want of wit?  
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?<sup>22</sup> Cupid

**Question 3**

Discuss the circumstances that make Hamlet advise Ophelia to go to the nunnery in Hamlet. [30]

**Question 4**

Using examples from Book One of *Paradise Lost* discuss the following conventions used by an epic writer:

- (a) The poet starts by stating the theme (9)
- (b) He invokes the muse (9)
- (c) Presents a catalogue of deeds requiring superhuman courage in which gods, angels and demons interest themselves (12)

**Question 5**

Discuss how Gulliver's experiences in Lilliput can be viewed as a satire on imperialism. [30]