

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE  
SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION  
MAY 2013**

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

**COURSE CODE: IDE ENG 104**

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

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. ANSWER ANY TWO (2) QUESTIONS. EACH QUESTION CARRIES 30 MARKS.**
  
- 2. EACH QUESTION SHOULD BE COMMENCED ON A SEPARATE SHEET.**
  
- 3. DO NOT REPEAT MATERIAL OR WRITE ABOUT THE SAME TEXT AT LENGTH MORE THAN ONCE.**
  
- 4. CANDIDATES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BRING ANY READING MATERIAL INTO THE EXAMINATION HALL.**
  
- 5. IN THE ASSESSMENT OF THIS PAPER, CORRECT USAGE OF ENGLISH, THE QUALITY OF EXPRESSION AND THE PRESENTATION OF ANSWERS WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.**

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

**QUESTION ONE**

Briefly explain the four literary devices used by Chaucer to describe the characters in his “General Prologue” to the Canterbury Tales, with relevant examples (30 marks).

**QUESTION TWO**

Show how Spenser’s Epithalamion fuses traditional features of the spousal ode with strong personal elements (30 Marks).

**QUESTION THREE**

In Hamlet, Shakespeare introduces characters who are obvious foils for Hamlet like Horatio, Claudius and Laertes. Compare and contrast Hamlet with each of these characters (30 Marks).

**QUESTION FOUR**

What is an epic or Homeric simile? Identify and analyse at least three Homeric similes from Milton’s Paradise Lost, Book I, to bring out its characteristics (30 Marks).

**QUESTION FIVE**

Comment on Sidney’s use of poetic devices like metaphor and pathetic fallacy in his portrayal of Astrophil’s love for Stella in the sonnets below (30 Marks).

## SONNET 31

With how sad steps, oh Moon, thou climb'st the skies,  
How silently, and with how wan a face.  
What, may it be, that even in heav'nly place  
That busy archer his sharp arrows tries?  
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 languish'd grace  
To me that feel the like, thy state descries.  
Then ev'n of fellowship, oh Moon, tell me  
Is constant love deem'd there but want of wit?  
Are beauties there as proud as here thy be?  
Do they above love to be lov'd, and yet  
Those lovers scorn whom that Love doth possess?  
Do they call virtue there ungratefulness?

## SONNET 71

Who will in fairest book of Nature know  
How Virtue may best lodged in beauty be;  
Let him but learn of Love to read in thee,  
Stella, those fair lines which true goodness show.  
There shall he find all vices' overthrow,  
Not by rude force, but sweetest sovereignty  
Of Reason, from whose light those night birds flee;  
That inward sun in thine eyes shineth so.  
And not content to be Perfection's heir  
Thyself, dost strive all minds that way to move,  
Who mark in thee what is in thee most fair.  
So while thy beauty draws the heart to love,  
As fast thy virtue bends that love to good:  
"But ah," Desire still cries, "give me some food."