

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE  
SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION

COURSE TITLE: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF ENGLISH  
LITERATURE

COURSE CODE: ENG 104

TIME ALLOWED: TWO HOURS

- INSTRUCTION:
1. Answer TWO questions; one from each section.
  2. Each question carries 30 marks.
  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 contrary will be penalised.

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

Question 1

Chaucer is a staunch believer in the correctness of behaviour regardless of one's station in life. Using one of the stories you have read discuss this statement. [30]

**Sonnets from Amoretti** – Spenser

Question 2

Analyse the sonnet below paying special attention to form and style. [30]

*Sonnet 67*

Lyke as a huntsman after weary chace,  
Seeing the game from him escapt away,  
Sits downe to rest him in some shady place,  
With panting hounds beguilèd of their pray:  
5 So after long pursuit and vaine assay,<sup>o</sup> *attempt*  
When I all weary had the chace forsooke,  
The gentle deare returnd the selfe-same way,  
Thinking to quench her thirst at the next<sup>o</sup> brooke. *nearby*  
There she beholding me with mylder looke,  
10 Sought not to fly, but fearelesse still did bide:  
Till I in hand her yet halfe trembling tooke,  
And with her owne goodwill hir fymely tyde.  
Strange thing me seemd to see a beast so wyld,  
So goodly wonne with her owne will beguyld.<sup>o</sup> *entangled*

Hamlet – Shakespeare

Question 3

Hamlet and, to an extent, Laertes seek to avenge their fathers' deaths. Compare the way they endeavour to do so. [30]

Question 4

What power relations emerge in Lilliput as the narrator interacts with the local inhabitants? [30]

Gulliver's Travels – Swift

Question 4

Gulliver's description of some of the places he writes about shows that they are merely a figment of his imagination. Discuss this statement. [30]