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UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION 2014
COURSE TITLE: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF ENGLISH
LITERATURE

COURSE CODE: ENG 104

- INSTRUCTION:
1. Answer TWO questions; one from each section.
 2. Each question carries 30 marks.
 3. Do not repeat 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

The Canterbury Tales - Chaucer

Question 1

What medieval values and expectations are reflected in "The Priest's Nun's Tale?" [30]

Astrophil and Stella – Sidney

Question 2

Discuss the structure of the sonnet below and explain what type of sonnet it is. [30]

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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^o 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 ingratitude?²

Hamlet – Shakespeare

Question 3

As a hero of revenge tragedy, Hamlet contemplates suicide in some of his soliloquys. Using two examples in their correct contexts discuss how this is reflected in the play. [30]