

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION

DECEMBER - 2014

COURSE TITLE : INTRODUCTION TO CRITICAL THEORY

COURSE CODE : ENG 204 / IDE-ENG 204

TIME ALLOWED : TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer any **TWO** questions.
2. Each question carries 30 marks. The total marks for the examination is 60%.
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 room.
5. 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

“Sidney’s theory of Literature directly opposes Plato’s epistemological way of studying Literature and twists Aristotle’s order of imitation.” Discuss. [30]

Question 2

Describe the “main” argument of three of the following theorists:

- a) Plato
 - b) Cassius Longinus
 - c) Philip Sidney
 - d) Aristotle
- [30]

Question 3

Describe the main argument of formalism critics in literary study and then analyse the following poem using the same theory. [30]

DEATH BE NOT PROUD

John Donne

Death, be not proud, though some have called thee
Mighty and dreadful, for, thou art not so;
For those whom thou think'st, thou dost overthrow
Die not, poor death, nor yet canst thou kill me.
From rest and sleep, which but thy pictures bee,
Much pleasure; then from thee much more must flow,
And soonest our best men with thee do go,
Rest of their bones, and soul's delivery.
Thou art slave to Fate, Chance, kings, and desperate men,
And dost with poison, war, and sickness dwell,
And poppy or charms can make us sleep as well
And better than thy stroke; why swell'st thou then?
One short sleep past, we wake eternally
And death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die.

Question 4

- a) Briefly outline I.A. Richard's theory of communication and valuation in Anglo-American New Criticism. (20)
- b) In what respect does this theory make Anglo-American new Criticism different from Formalist theories of Literature? (10) = [30]

Question 5

Use the poem below to illustrate the Marxist base and superstructure approach to Literature, What are the strengths and weaknesses of the approach in your view. [30]

THE SUNDAY EMERGENCY

By Sarah Mkhonza

On a bloody Sunday journey
At the emergency room of a hospital
In a town called Manzini
In a country called Swaziland
The weekend plays soccer
On the bodies of women.
The suffering kills me inside.
Seen everywhere, it invades me—
Women limping, hips dislocated,
Heads bandaged,
My niece with no eye, but a marble in the socket,
My niece dead, nothing but a memory.
When does it end, this beating of women?

Answer me! My anxiety fails me,
For I am lunar, I will go mad
And run away in the night, crying murder all over.
Somebody is mad and not me;
Somebody inside me sees.
I just speak for all,
I do.