

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION – JULY, 2015

COURSE CODE: ENG206 /IDE-ENG206
COURSE NAME: A STUDY OF POETRY
TIME ALLOWED: TWO HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer any 2 questions.
2. Read the instructions carefully before attempting the question.
3. Make sure you proofread for grammatical errors to avoid losing marks.
4. Make sure you adhere to both literary and poetic rules.
5. The paper is 4 pages, cover page included.

THIS PAPER SHOULD NOT BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.

Question 1

1. Read the excerpts below and answer the questions that follow them:

a) There were three ravens sat on a tree

....
The one of them said to his mate,
“Where shall we our breakfast take?”

“Down in yonder greene field,
There lies a knight slain under his shield.”

“His hounds they lie downe at his feete,
So well can their master keepe...”

b) Thou, whose exterior semblance doth belie

Thy soul's immensity;
Thou best Philosopher, who yet doth keep
Thy heritage, thou Eye among the blind,
That, deaf and silent, read'st the eternal deep,
Haunted forever by the eternal mind, -
Mighty Prophet! Seer blest!

c) Condemned to Hope's delusive mine,

As on we toil from day to day,
By sudden blasts, or slow decline,
Our social comforts drop away.

Well tried through many a varying year,
See Level to the grave descend,
Officious, innocent, sincere,
Of every friendless name the friend.

d) The price seemed reasonable, location

Indifferent. The landlady swore she lived
Off premises. Nothing remained
But self-confession. ‘Madam,’ I warned,
‘I hate a wasted journey - I am African.’
Silence. Silenced transmission of
Pressurized good-breeding. Voice, when it came,
Lipstick coated, long gold-rolled
Cigarette-holder pipped. Caught I was, foully.
‘HOW DARK?’ ... I had not misheard ...

- i) Classify the excerpts according to their subtype. [8]
- ii) List **two** characteristics of each excerpt to justify your classification. [14]
- iii) Discuss each excerpt and show whether it adheres to the conventional mode or free verse and justify your choice. [8]

Question 2

Read the poem below and do the following:

- a) Discuss the situation it presents. [10]
- b) Comment on its overall theme. [4]
- c) Discuss the poet's diction, especially its **effective** and **affective** power. [10]
- d) Respond to the main features of the poem's form. [6]

"Karachi" Taufiq Rafat

The screaming wind transplants the soil
 Particle by particle. The roar of the sun
 Is silenced by distance, but its muscular rays
 Crack the most stubborn rock like a nut.
 And, yes, the sea: biting into the beach head
 With an ancient rasping sound. All the forces
 Of nature crowding man off his perch
 So that the land can return to its ways.

In this city of scarce sweet water and little rain
 Each man protects his rood of greenery
 With panicked care. The municipality ploughs
 The heart of the road for strip of grass
 And jealously counts its trees on week-days.
 The bald sparrow scrounges in the dust-bin;
 Only the spendthrift *gul-mohur* spills its gold
 In the pitiful spring that time allows.
 We wear our features to suit the landscape;
 And malice moves like a rainless cloud
 Over the brown cliffs of the teeth.
 From opposite the terminus I stare
 At the commuters storming the gates, and see
 Where the roof bulges the effeminate rise
 Of a dune, and where the lamp-post stands
 The arms of the cactus lifted in prayer.

Question 3

Read the sonnet below and answer the questions that follow it:

“**E Tenebris**” (Out of Darkness”) Oscar Wilde

Come down, O Christ, and help me! Reach thy hand,
For I am drowning in a stormier sea
Than Simon on thy lake of Galilee:
The wine of life is spilt upon the sand,
My heart is as some famine-murdered land
Whence all good things have perished utterly,
And well I know my soul in Hell must lie
If I this night before God’s throne should stand.
“He sleeps perchance, or rideth to the chase,
Like Baal, when his prophets howled that name
From morn to noon on Carmel’s smitten height.”
Nay, peace, I shall behold, before the night,
The feet of brass, the robe more white than flame,
The wounded hands, the weary human face.

- a) Discuss the meaning of the sonnet by highlighting its religious themes. [10]
- b) Cite and discuss **four** examples of the use of Biblical allusions in the sonnet. [10]
- c) Discuss the sonnet’s form, division and subtype. [10]

Question 4

Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow it:

“**The Twin of Sleep**” Robert Graves

Death is the twin of sleep, they say:
For I shall rise renewed,
Free from the cramps of yesterday,
Clear-eyed and supple-thewed.

But though this bland analogy
Helps other folk face
Decrepitude, senility,
Madness, disease, disgrace,

I do not like Death’s greedy looks:
Give me his twin instead

Sleep never auctions off my books
My boots, my shirts, my bed.

- a) For those who regard death as “the twin of sleep”, what reasons do they give? [10]
- b) What reasons does the persona give to refute their argument? [10]
- c) Which side do you support on the subject? [2]
- d) Is the poem conventional or free verse? Support your choice by analysing its main features of form. [8]