

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION

MAY, 2015

TITLE OF PAPER : HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF ENGLISH LITERATURE

COURSE CODE : ENG 104

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**The Canterbury Tales – Chaucer**

Discuss the author's presentation of the following characters; highlight their shortcomings both as individuals and or as members of particular institutions:

- (a) Nicholas
- (b) Alison
- (c) The Prioress
- (d) The Miller
- (e) The Summoner

[30]**Question 2**

31

- 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 describes.
 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 ungratefulness?²

Read the sonnet above and discuss its:

- (a) Structure
- (b) Theme
- (c) Rhyme pattern
- (d) Type

[30]

Question 3

Hamlet – Shakespeare

HAMLET

Now might I do it pat, now he is praying.
And now I'll do't.

[He draws his sword]

And so he goes to heaven;

And so am I revenged. That would be scanned.
A villain kills my father; and for that
I, his sole son, do this same villain send
To heaven.

O, this is hire and salary, not revenge.
He took my father grossly, full of bread,
With all his crimes broad blown, as flush as May;
And how his audit stands who knows save heaven?
But in our circumstance and course of thought
'Tis heavy with him. And am I then revenged
To take him in the purging of his soul,
When he is fit and seasoned for his passage?
No.

80

He puts up his sword
Up, sword, and know thou a more horrid hint.
When he is drunk asleep, or in his rage,
Or in th'incestuous pleasure of his bed,

90

- Situate the above extract within its context and state its content
- What thematic issues does it raise and how are these related to the main concerns of the play?

[30]

Question 4

Paradise Lost – Milton

With illustrations from Book 1 discuss some of the epic conventions used.

[30]

END OF EXAMINATION