# UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

# DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION – JULY, 2016

COURSE CODE: ENG206 / IDE-ENG206 COURSE NAME: A STUDY OF POETRY

TIME ALLOWED: 2 HOURS

## **INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. Read the instructions carefully before answering the questions.
- 2. Answer Question 1 plus one other question.
- 3. Each question is worth 30 marks.
- 4. Make sure you adhere to literary conventions to avoid loss of marks.
- 5. Make sure you proofread your work to eliminate grammatical and other errors.
- 6. The paper is 4 pages long, cover page included.

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

# Question 1 - Compulsory

# Read the poem below and do the following:

- a) In a paragraph of not more than 20 lines, highlight the situation presented by the poem. [10]
- b) Make an in-depth critical appreciation of language use, especially its effective and affective power. [15]
- c) Reread LL17-19 and discuss their meaning and how they relate to the rest of the poem. [5]

# "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.

10

5

15

20

#### Question 2

Read the two sonnets below and discuss how each sonnet's internal structure regulates the unfolding of its sense and theme (which you first need to state). [30]

### "Sonnet 138" Shakespeare

When my love swears that she is made of truth, I do believe her, though I know she lies, That she might think me some untutored youth, Unlearned in the world's false subtleties. Thus vainly thinking that she thinks me young, Although she knows my days are past the best, Simply\* I credit her false-speaking tongue: On both sides thus is simple truth suppressed. But wherefore\* says she not she is unjust?\* And wherefore say not I that I am old? Oh, love's best habit is in seeming trust, And age in love loves not to have years told.\* Therefore I lie with her and she with me, And in our faults by lies we flattered be.

like a simpleton/fool

why unfaithful

counted

# "God's Grandeur" Hopkins

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.

It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;

It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil

Crushed. Why do men then now not reck his rod?

Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;

And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;

And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil

Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;

There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;

And though the last lights off the black West went

Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs –

Because the Holy Ghost over the bent

World broods with warm breast and with ah! Bright wings.

#### Question 3

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

# "I Met a Thief" Austin Bukenya

On the beach, on the Coast, Under the idle, whispering coconut towers, Before the growling, foaming waves, I met a thief, who guessed I had An innocent heart for her to steal

She took my hand and led me under
The intimate cashew boughs which shaded
The downy grass and peeping weeds
She jumped and plucked the nuts for me to suck;
She sang and laughed and pressed close

I gazed: her hair was like the wool of a mountain sheep, Her eyes, a pair of brown-black beans floating in milk.

Juicy and round as plantain shoots

Her legs, arms and neck,

And like wine-gourds her pillowy breasts;

Her throat uttered fresh banana juice

Matching her face – smooth and banana ripe

I touched – but not long before I even tasted
My heart had flowed from me into her breast;
And then she went – High and South –
And left my carcass roasting in the fire she'd lit

- a) In about a page, give an in-depth discussion of the sense and theme of the poem. [12]
- b) Discuss the poet's diction and how it serves to enhance his thematic intentions. [10]
- c) Discuss the poem's obvious aspects of form. [8]