

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

FIRST SEMESTER FINAL EXAMINATION

DECEMBER, 2017

COURSE CODE: ENG 225/ ENG 216 / ENG 206
COURSE NAME: A STUDY OF POETRY
DURATION: TWO HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer TWO questions.
2. Make sure you adhere to poetic and other conventions.
3. Make sure you proofread your work to eliminate grammatical errors which may lead to loss of marks.
4. This paper is 6 pages long, cover page included.

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

Question 1

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

“The Passionate Shepherd to His Love” Christopher Marlowe

Come live with me and be my Love,
And we will all the pleasures prove
That hills and valleys, dale and field,
And all the craggy mountains yield.

There will we sit upon the rocks 5
And see the shepherds feed their flocks,
By shallow rivers, to whose falls
Melodious birds sing *madrigals. Love songs/lyrics

There will I make thee beds of roses
And a thousand fragrant posies, 10
A cap of flowers, with a *kirtle skirt
Embroidered all with leaves of *myrtle. evergreen shrub

A gown made of the finest wool,
Which from our pretty lambs we pull,
Fair lined slippers for the cold, 15
With buckles of the purest gold.

A belt of straw and ivy buds
With coral clasps and amber studs:
And if these pleasures may thee move,
Come live with me and be my Love. 20

Thy silver dishes for thy meat
As precious as the gods do eat,
Shall on an ivory table be
Prepared each day for thee and me.

The shepherd swains shall dance and sing 25
For thy delight each May-morning:
If these delights thy mind may move,
Then live with me and be my Love.

- a) Identify and briefly discuss the poem's subject matter. [3]

- b) Discuss how the persona skillfully uses nature imagery to woo his Love. [10]
- c) By citing one example in each case, discuss how the imagery appeals to the various senses. [10]
- d) Briefly discuss the poem's form (minus versification). [5]
- e) Briefly cite and discuss one poetic technique (other than run-on-line) used in the poem. [2]

[30]

Question 2

Read the following poem and answer the questions below it:

“Reapers in a Mieliefeld” Mbuyiseni Mtshali

Faces furrowed and wet with sweat,
 Bags tied to their wasp waists
 Women reapers bend mielie stalks
 Break cobs in rustling sheaths
 Toss them in the bags 5
 and move through row upon row of maize.

Behind them, like a desert tanker,
 a dust-raising tractor
 pulls a trailer,
 driven by a pipe-puffing man 10
 flashing tobacco-stained teeth
 as yellow as the harvested grain.

He stops to pick bags
 loaded by thick-limbed labourers
 in vests baked 15
 brown with dust.

The sun lashes
 the workers with
 a red-hot rod;
 they stop for a while 20
 to wipe a brine-bathed brow
 and drink from battered cans
 bubbling with malty maheu.

Thirst is slaked in seconds,

Men jerk bags like feather cushions
and women become prancing wild mares;
soon the day's work will be done
and the reapers will rest in the kraals.

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- a) Give a briefly summary of the poem's situation. [5]
- b) According to the poet, is reaping an easy job? *Briefly discuss with the aid of illustrations.* [5]
- c) By focusing on the fourth stanza, discuss how Mtshali vivifies his meaning with the use of figurative language. [5]
- d) Identify the midline rhyme which predominates in this poem and briefly discuss how it aids the poem's reading. [5]
- e) In what way(s) does the maheu help the workers? [5]
- f) Does this poem carry a social message for the reader? *Discuss briefly.* [5]

[30]

Question 3

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

“The Cape of Storms” Thomas Pringle

O Cape of Storms! Although thy front be dark,
And bleak thy naked cliffs and cheerless vales,
And perilous thy fierce and faithless gales
To staunchest mariner and stoutest bark;
And though along thy coasts with grief I mark
The servile and the slave, and him who wails
An exile's lot – and blush to hear thy tales
Of sin and sorrow and oppression stark:-
Yet, spite of physical and moral ill,
And after all I've seen and suffered here,
There are strong links that bind me to thee still,
And render even thy rocks and deserts dear;
Here dwell kind hearts which time nor place can chill –
Loved Kindred and congenial Friends sincere.

- a) In descending order, write the last word of each line and underline the last syllable. [3 ½]
- b) Scan the poem for its rhyme scheme and write the rhyme scheme. [5 ½]

- c) Identify the sonnet's type and indicate its internal division and subdivisions. [5]
- d) Highlight the argument advanced in the sonnet, and how it is shaped by its internal structure. [10]
- e) Reproduce any two lines which alliterate, and underline the alliterative aspects. [2]
- f) Reproduce any two lines as examples of the use of consonance in the sonnet, and underline the consonant aspects. [2]
- g) Reproduce any two lines as examples of the use of assonance in the sonnet, and underline the assonant aspects. [2]

Question 4

Give a well-illustrated definition of an elegy, and, by focusing on meaning, tone and mood, discuss how the two elegies below differ. [30]

"An Elegy" Laban Erapu

When he was here,
 We planned each tomorrow
 With him in mind
 For we saw no parting
 Looming beyond the horizon.

When he was here,
 We joked and laughed together
 And no fleeting shadow of a ghost
 Ever crossed our paths.

Day by day we lived
 On this side of the mist
 And there was never a sign
 That his hours were running fast.

When he was gone,
 Through glazed eyes we searched
 Beyond the mist and the shadows
 For we couldn't believe he was nowhere:
 We couldn't believe he was dead.

"A Satirical Elegy on the Death of a Late Famous General" Jonathan Swift

His Grace! Impossible, what, dead!
 Of old age too, and in his bed!
 And could that Mighty Warrior fall?

And so inglorious, after-all!
Well, since he's gone, no matter how,
The last loud trump must wake him now:
And, trust me, as the noise grows stronger,
He'd wish to sleep a little longer.
And could he be indeed so old
As by the newspapers we're told?

Threescore, I think, is pretty high;
'Twas time in conscience he should die.
This world he cumbered long enough;
He burnt his candle to the snuff;
And that's the reason, some folks think,
He left behind *so great a stink*.
Behold his funeral appears,
Nor widow's sighs, nor orphan's tears,
Wont at such times each heart to pierce,
Attend the progress of his hearse.
But what of that, his friends may say,
He had those honours in his day.
True to his profit and his pride,
He made them weep before he died.

Come hither, all ye empty things,
Ye bubbles raised by breath of kings;
Who float upon the tide of state,
Come hither, and behold your fate.
Let pride be taught by this rebuke,
How very mean a thing's a Duke;
From all his ill-got honours flung,
Turned to that dirt from whence he sprung.

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