# UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

# DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION – JULY, 2018

COURSE CODE: ENG 225/ ENG 216/ ENG 206

COURSE NAME: A STUDY OF POETRY

TIME ALLOWED: 2 HOURS

# **INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. Read the instructions carefully before answering the questions.
- 2. Answer TWO questions.
- 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 One**

Read the poems below and answer the questions that follow them:

### 1. "Happiness" Carl Sandburg

I asked professors who teach the meaning of life to tell me what is happiness.

And I went to famous executives who boss the work of thousands of men.

They all shook their heads and gave me a smile as though I was trying to fool with them.

And then one Sunday afternoon I wandered out along the Desplaines river

And I saw a crowd of Hungarians under the trees with their women and children and a keg of beer and an accordion.

- a) In your own words, highlight the persona's definition of happiness. [7]
- b) Do you agree with the persona's definition? Discuss briefly. [5]
- c) Briefly discuss the poem's form. [3]

# 2. "Happiness" Andrew Bartrop

Happiness is my puppy wagging her tail.
Happiness is a hug that cheers me up.
Happiness is laughing together with friends.
Happiness is warm, lazy weekends.
Happiness is my twinkling-eyed little gran.
Happiness is time spent with people I love.

- a) With the aid of examples from either or both poems, discuss whether their definition of happiness is the same or different. [7]
- b) Briefly state your stand on Bartrop's definition of happiness. [3]
- c) Discuss the poem's form, including whatever observable poetic technique. [5]

[30]

#### **Question Two**

Read the two poems and answer the questions that follow them:

"My Father" Felix Mnthali

That we may have life and have it abundantly he endured the chrome-dust the damp hell of Selukwe Peak Mines the pittance of American multinationals –

They thought it was the watch on which they had inscribed his name 'for a long and meritorious service' that made him beam ... they never saw blacks as men with ambition but only as a 'labour force' the long arm of their 'manifest destiny', the vital source of their strategic metals.

He smiled smiled because one day one day ... his sons would return!

# "Evergreen" Jack Davis

My father was a mighty man.

He could battle giants

And was unafraid of school teachers.

I used to run my fingers

Along his hairy arms,

Which spoke of black strength and solidarity.

I loved to watch him shave

And marveled at his dexterity with the naked blade.

He could make a fire at night

Even with wet wood.

I do not have to change my view of him. He died when I became a teen So he remains the same to me, Forever green.

- a) In two separate paragraphs, discuss the poets' observations about their fathers, respectively. [10]
- b) What sacrifices does Mnthali's father make for his sons? [5]

- c) Why has Davis titled his poem "evergreen'? [5]
- d) Comparatively discuss the poems' structures. [10]

#### Question 3

Identify the poem's subgenre and support your choice by citing and discussing not less than five of its characteristic features. [30]

## "The Bailiff's Daughter of Islington"

There was a youthe, and a well-beloved youthe,
And he was a squire's son:
He loved the bayliffe's daughter deare,
That lived in Islington.

Yet she was coye and would not believe,
That he did love her soe,
Noe nor at any time would she
Any countenance to him showe.

But when his friendes did understand
His fond and foolish minde,
They sent up to faire London
An apprentice for to binde.

And he had been seven long yeares,
And never his love could see:

'Many a teare have I shed for her sake,
When she little thought of mee.'

Then all the maids of Islington
Went forth to sport and playe,
All but the bayliffe's daughter deare;
She secretly stole awaye.
20

She pulled off her gowne of greene, And put on rugged attire, And to faire London she would go Her true love to enquire.

And as she went along the high road,
The weather being hot and drye,
She sat her downe upon a green bank,
And her true love came riding bye.

She started up, with a colour soe red, Catching hold of his bridle-reine; 'One penny, one penny, kind sir,' she sayd, 'Will ease me of much paine.'	30
'Before I give you one penny, sweet-heart, Praye tell me where you were borne.'  'At Islington, kind sir,' sayd shee, 'Where I have had many a scorne.'	35
'I prythee, sweet-heart, then tell to mee, O tell me, whether you knowe The bayliffe's daughter of Islington.' 'She is dead, sir, long agoe.'	40
'If she be dead, then take my horse, My saddle and bridle also; For I will into some farr countrye, Where noe man shall me knowe.'	
'O staye, O staye, thou goodlye youthe, She standeth by thy side; She is here alive, she is not dead, And readye to be thy bride.'	45
'O farewell griefe, and welcome joye, Ten thousand times therefore; For nowe I have founde mine owne true love, Whom I thought I should never see more.'	50