

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
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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.

- In your own words, highlight the persona's definition of happiness. [7]
- Do you agree with the persona's definition? Discuss briefly. [5]
- 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.

- With the aid of examples from either or both poems, discuss whether their definition of happiness is the same or different. [7]
- Briefly state your stand on Bartrop's definition of happiness. [3]
- 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]

She started up, with a colour soe red,
 Catching hold of his bridle-reine; 30
 'One penny, one penny, kind sir,' she sayd,
 'Will ease me of much paine.'

 'Before I give you one penny, sweet-heart,
 Praye tell me where you were borne.'
 'At Islington, kind sir,' sayd shee, 35
 'Where I have had many a scorne.'

 '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, 45
 She standeth by thy side;
 She is here alive, she is not dead,
 And readye to be thy bride.'

 'O farewell grieffe, and welcome joye,
 Ten thousand times therefore; 50
 For nowe I have founde mine owne true love,
 Whom I thought I should never see more.'

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