

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**  
**SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION**  
**MAY 2018**

TITLE OF PAPER:           **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND TO ENGLISH**  
  
  **LITERATURE**

COURSE CODE:           **IDE-ENG104**

TIME ALLOWED:         **2 HOURS**

INSTRUCTIONS:         **1. ANSWER TWO (2) QUESTIONS**  
  
  **2. YOUR ANSWERS SHOULD NOT EXCEED THREE (3)**  
  
  **PAGES EACH**  
  
  **3. DO NOT REPEAT MATERIAL, OR WRITE ABOUT THE**  
  
  **SAME TEXT AT LENGTH MORE THAN ONCE**  
  
  **4. CORRECT USE OF ENGLISH AND LITERARY**  
  
  **CONVENTIONS WILL BE REWARDED, AND THE REVERSE**  
  
  **WILL BE PENALISED**

This paper should not be opened until permission has been granted by the invigilator.

**QUESTION 1 – The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer**

Choose *three* (3) characters from the list below, and discuss their possible motives for going on pilgrimage (use clear illustrations from the text to support your answer).

- a) The Miller
- b) The Wife of Bath
- c) The Knight
- d) The Prioress
- e) The Monk
- f) The Parson
- g) The Squire

[30]

**QUESTION 2 – “The Miller’s Tale” by Geoffrey Chaucer**

Basing your analysis on his tale and what we already know about him from “The General Prologue,” describe the Miller’s character.

[30]

**QUESTION 3 – Amoretti Sonnets by Edmund Spenser**

Read the sonnet below and answer the questions that follow.

Happy ye leaves when as those lily hands,

Which hold my life in their dead doing\* might, *killin*

Shall handle you and hold in loves soft bands,\* *bonds*

Lyke captives trembling at the victors sight.

5 And happy ye lines, on which with starry light,

Those laming\* eyes will deigne sometimes to look *flashing*

And reade the sorrowes of my dying spright,\* *spirit*

Written with teares in harts close\* bleeding book.

*secret*

And happy rymes bath'd in the sacred brooke

10 Of Helicon whence she derivèd is,

When ye behold that Angels blessed looke,

My soules long lackèd foode, my heavens blis.

Leaves, lines, and rymes, seek her to please alone,

Whom if ye please, I care for other none.

- a) In 10 – 15 lines, discuss the situation presented by the poem. [7]
- b) At which stage of the persona's relationship with the lady does this sonnet appear in Spencer's sonnet series? [2]
- c) Analyze the poem for meaning. [15]
- d) Discuss the poem's tone and mood. [6]

[30]

#### QUESTION 4 – Hamlet by William Shakespeare

Use illustrations from the play to discuss Claudius' contribution to the deaths that occur in Hamlet.

[30]

#### QUESTION 5 – Paradise Lost by John Milton

John Milton's "Paradise Lost" as an epic depiction of the struggle between good and evil. Discuss this assertion, supporting your argument with clear illustrations from the text.

[30]