

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE  
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION  
JULY 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 how Chaucer artfully passes judgment on them in “The General Prologue.”

- a. The Prioress
- b. The Monk
- c. The Pardoner
- d. The Friar
- e. The Summoner

[30]

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

Describe how Chaucer makes use of characterization in “The Miller’s Tale” to reveal aspects of medieval English society.

[30]

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

Study the sonnet below and answer the questions that follow.

Lyke as a hustman after a weary chace,

Seeing the game from him escapt away,

Sits downe to rest him in some shady place,

With panting hounds beguilèd of their pray:

5 So after long pursuit and vaine assay,\*

*attempt*

When I all weary had the chace forsooke,

The gentle deare returnd the selfe-same way,

Thinking to quench her thirst at the next\* brooke.

*nearby*

There she beholding me with mylder looke,

10 Sought not to fly, but fearelesse still did bide:

Till I in hand her yet halfe trembling tooke,

And with her owne goodwill hir fymely tyde.

Strange thing me seemd to see a beast so wyld,

So goodly wonne with her owne will beguyld.\*

*entangled*

- 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**

One of the lessons to be drawn from Shakespeare's Hamlet is that things are not always what they appear to be. Discuss the portrayal of this theme in the play.

[30]

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

How does John Milton in "Paradise Lost" justify the ways of God to man?

[30]