

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION 2006**

**TITLE OF PAPER:** INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LITERATURE  
**COURSE CODE:** ENG103/ IDE-ENG103

**TIME ALLOWED:** 2 HOURS

**INSTRUCTIONS:** 1. Answer TWO questions, one from each section.

2. All questions carry equal marks.

3. Incorrect use of English and literary conventions will be penalized.

4. Do not repeat material or write about the same text more than once.

5. This paper is 5 pages long, cover page included.

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

**SECTION A: THEORY** Answer ONE question

1. Using illustrations from ONE of the novels studied in this course – In My Father's House, A Christmas Carol, Pains of a Maid – discuss everything you know about ONE of the following: plot, characterization, point of view.
- 2(a) Who is the respective villain or antagonist in Julius Caesar and The Merchant of Venice? [6]  
(b) Identify and account for any similarities and /or differences you may have observed in the portrayal of these two villains or antagonists. [24]
3. Read the following excerpts from some poems and answer the questions below:

(i)

Fear no more the heat o' the sun,  
Nor the furious winter's rages;  
Thou thy worldly task hast done,  
Home art gone, and ta'en thy wages:  
Golden lads and girls all must,  
As chimney-sweepers, come to dust.

(ii)

See: the newspaper boy in the rain  
will sleep tonight in a doorway.  
The woman in the busline  
may next month be on a train  
to a place not her own.  
The baby in the backyard now  
will be sent to a tired aunt,  
grow chubby, then lean  
return a stranger.

(iii)

A little freezing spider  
Legs and arms gathered in her chest  
Rocking with flu,  
I saw old Granny  
At Harare Market;  
It was past nine of the night  
When I saw the dusty crumpled Spider –  
A torn little blanket  
Was her web.

- a) What aspects do you examine when analysing a poem's form? [10]
- b) Comment on the different structures along with respective structural devices of the above excerpts. [20]

**SECTION B: PRACTICAL CRITICISM** Answer one question

4. "Literature has been defined partly as helping people to 'understand themselves and the world in which they live.'" With reference to one of the novels you have done in this course - In My Father's House, A Christmas Carol, Pains of a Maid - respond to the above by:
- Briefly (not more than a page) highlighting the situation faced by the novel's main character. [10]
  - Identifying, *in point form*, three themes the author has outlined through the experiences of the main character. [10]
  - Commenting how the main character's story has helped you to *understand yourself and the world in which you live*. [10]
5. How does Sembene Ousmane's short story, "Her Three Days" project the predicament of women in a polygamous society?
6. Read the following excerpt from The Merchant of Venice and answer the questions below:

So may the outward shows be least themselves.  
The world is still deceived with ornament.  
In law, what plea so tainted and corrupt  
But, being seasoned with a gracious voice,  
Obscures the show of evil? In religion,  
What damned error but some sober brow  
Will bless it and approve it with a text,  
Hiding the grossness with fair ornament?

...

How many cowards whose hearts are all as false  
As stairs of sand, wear yet upon their chins  
The beards of Hercules and frowning Mars,  
Who, inward searched, have livers white as milk?

... Look on beauty

And you shall see 'tis purchased by the weight,  
Which therein works a miracle in nature,  
Making them lightest that wear most of it.  
So are those crisped, snaky, golden locks  
Which make such wanton gambols with the wind  
Upon supposed fairness, often known  
To be the dowry of a second head,  
The skull that bred them in the sepulchre.  
Thus ornament is but the guiled shore  
To a most dangerous sea...

- (a) Basing your response on a close examination of the metaphors in the above excerpt, explain Shakespeare's standpoint on beauty or his definition of true love. [25]
- (b) To what extent do you agree with his definition? [5]

**OR:**

"In a comedy, the characters and their discomfitures engage our delighted attention rather than our profound concern; we also feel confident no great disaster will occur and usually the action turns out happily for the chief characters." Is this true with Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice? Discuss.

7. "G.W. Hegel, the German philosopher and critic, points out that a tragedy can always be seen as a 'conflict', not between right and wrong, but between appositive rights." How far is this critical view true of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar?

8. Read the following poem and answer the questions below:

"Farewell at the moment of parting" Agostinho Neto (Angola)

My mother  
(oh black mothers whose children have departed)  
you taught me to wait and to hope  
as you have done through the disastrous hours

But in me  
life has killed that mysterious hope  
I wait no more  
It is I who am waited

Hope is ourselves  
your children  
travelling towards a faith that feeds life

We the naked children of the bush sanzalas  
unschooled urchins who play with balls of rags  
on the noonday plains  
ourselves  
hired to burn out our lives in coffee fields  
ignorant black men  
who must respect the whites  
and fear the rich  
we are your children of the native quarters  
which the electricity never reaches  
men dying drunk  
abandoned to the rhythms of the death's tom-toms  
your children

who hunger  
who thirst  
who are ashamed to call you mother  
who are afraid to cross the streets  
who are afraid of men

It is ourselves  
the hope of life recovered.

- (a) Briefly state the *sense/meaning* and *theme* of the above poem. [10]
- (b) Comment on the poem's tone and mood: to clarify your answer, begin with a brief definition of these concepts. [10]
- (c) Comment on the main structural aspects of the poem. [10]