UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION 2007/8

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LITERATURE

COURSE CODE: ENG103

TIME ALLOWED: 2 HRS.

<u>INSTRUCTIONS</u>: 1. Answer TWO questions, one from each section.

2. Each question carries 30 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 four 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. Citing examples from Sembene Ousmane's "Her Three Days", discuss how character development is realised in prose. [30]
- 2. Basing your discussion on Shakespeare's <u>Twelfth Night</u>, discuss how, through the use of humour, comedy portrays the 'amusing aspects of human behaviour' that are part of our everyday life. [30]
- 3. Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow:

A Sudden Storm

The wind howls, the trees sway,
The loose house-top sheets clatter and clang,
The open window shuts with a bang,
And the sky makes night of the day.

Helter-skelter the parents run,
Pressed with a thousand minor cares:
"Hey, you there! Pack the house wares!
And where on earth's my son?"

Home skip the little children:
"Where have you been, you naughty boy?"
The child can feel nothing but joy,
For he loves the approach of the rain.

The streets clear, the houses fill,
The noise gathers as children shout
To rival the raging wind without,
And nought that can move is still –

A bright flash! – a lighted plain; Then, from the once-black heavens, Accompanied by noise that deafens, Steadily pours the rain.

- a) With the aid of examples, discuss the use of sound devices in the poem. Begin your discussion by briefly commenting on the situation presented by the poem. [15]
- b) Write a close analysis of the poem's form or structure. [15]

SECTION B: Practical Criticism Answer ONE question

4. A Christmas Carol Charles Dickens

"I wear the chain I forged in life ... I made it link by link, and yard by yard; I girded it on of my own free will, and of my own free will I wore it. Is its pattern strange to you? ... Or would you know ... the weight and length of the strong coil you bear yourself? It was full as heavy as this, seven Christmas Eves ago. You have laboured on it, since. It is a ponderous chain!"

Discuss the above observations by:

- a) Identifying the speaker and the person addressed. [4]
- b) Explaining what the excerpt means. [10]
- c) Commenting on the events and character transformation that follow these observations. [16]

5. Julius Caesar Shakespeare

Read the excerpt below and answer the questions that follow:

No, not an oath. If not the face of men, The sufferance of our souls, the time's abuse -If these be motives weak, break off betimes, And every man hence to his idle bed. So let high-sighted tyranny range on Till each man drop by lottery. But if these, As I am sure they do, bear fire enough To kindle cowards and to steel with valour The melting spirits of women, then, countrymen, What need we any spur but our own cause To prick us to redress? What other bond Than secret Romans, that have spoke the word And will not palter? And what other oath Than honesty to honesty engaged That this shall be or we will fall for it? ...do not stain

The even virtue of our enterprise...

- (a) Identify the speaker of these words. [2]
- (b) On what occasion does the speaker make these remarks? [3]
- (c) Who are the other characters involved? [2]

- (d) Briefly discuss the occasion in question. [3]
- (e) Identify and discuss the main linguistic device used in the above speech. [5]
- (f) Give a line-by-line paraphrase of the speech. [15]
 - <u>6.</u> Read the poem below and discuss the main aspects included when one analyses a poem at the level of meaning:

"The Twin of Sleep" Robert Graves

Death is the twin of sleep, they say: For I shall rise renewed, Free from the cramps of yesterday, Clear-eyed and supple-thewed.

But though this bland analogy Helps other folk to face Decrepitude, senility, Madness, disease, disgrace,

I do not like Death's greedy looks:Give me his twin instead –Sleep never auctions off my booksMy boots, my shirts, my bed.