

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION
JULY 2016

COURSE TITLE: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF ENGLISH LITERATURE

COURSE CODE: IDE-ENG 104

TIME ALLOWED: TWO HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

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1. Answer **TWO** questions, one from each section.
2. Each question carries 30 marks.
3. Do not repeat 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 IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE
INVIGILATOR.

1. With close reference to 'The Nun's Priest's Tale' discuss how the Church viewed simplicity of life, frugality and being content with what one possessed as important virtues in Medieval times.
2. Analyse the sonnet below in terms of structure, theme, rhyming scheme. [30]

With what sad steps, O Moon, thou climb'st the skies,

How silently, and with how wan a face!

What, may it be that even in heavenly place

That bust archer his sharp arrows tries?

Sure, if that long-with-love-acquainted eyes

Can judge of love, thou feel'st a lover's case;

I read it in thy looks: thy languished grace,

To me that feels the like, thy state describes.

Then even of, fellowship, O Moon, tell me,

Is constant love deemed there but want of wit?

Are beauties there as proud as here they be?

Do they above love to be loved, and yet

Those lovers scorn whom that love doth possess?

Do they call virtue there ungratefulness?

3. Read the extract below, identify the speaker, situate it within its correct context and discuss how it relates to the bigger theme (s) of the play. [30]

If thou has nature in thee, bear it not,
Let not the royal bed of Denmark be
A couch for luxury and damned incest.
But howsoever thou persuest this act,
Taint not thy mind, nor let thy soul contrive
Against thy mother aught - leave her to heaven,
And to those thorns that in her bosom lodge
To prick and sting her.

Paradise Lost - Milton

4. Using an example from Book I discuss the epic or Homeric simile. [30]