UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL: PIETERMARITZBURG
EXAMINATION: NOVEMBER 2015 (Main)
SCHOOL OF ARTS

COURSE: English 201 – The English Novel
CODE: ENGL201P2

DURATION: 3 hours  TOTAL MARKS 100

Internal Examiners: Prof. M.Z. Malaba

External Examiner: Dr K. Moolman

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Students are requested, in their own interest, to write legibly.
2. This paper consists of 3 pages. Please see that you have them all.
3. Answer three questions.
4. Each answer should take the form of a coherent essay.

QUESTION 1

Write a critical analysis of the following passage, paying particular attention to the imagery and discuss its significance in relation to the thematic concerns of *Tess of the D’Urbervilles.*

Tess had heard those notes [of a harp] in the attic above her head....To speak absolutely, both instrument and execution were poor; but the relative is all, and as she listened Tess, like a fascinated bird, could not leave the spot. Far from leaving she drew up towards the performer, keeping behind the hedge that he might not guess her presence.

The outskirts of the garden in which Tess found herself had been left uncultivated for some years, and was now damp and rank with juicy grass which sent up mists of pollen at a touch; and with tall blooming weeds emitting offensive smells – weeds whose red and yellow and purple hues formed a polychrome as dazzling as that of cultivated flowers. She went stealthily as a cat through this profusion of growth, gathering cuckoo-spittle on her skirts, cracking snails that were underfoot, staining her hands with thistle-milk and slug-slime, and rubbing off upon her naked arms sticky blights which, though snow-white on the apple-tree trunks, made blood-red stains on her skin; thus she drew quite near to Clare, still unobserved of him.
QUESTION 1 continued

Tess was conscious of neither time nor space. The exaltation which she had described as being producible at will by gazing at a star, came now without any determination of hers; she undulated upon the thin notes as upon billows, and their harmonies passed like breezes through her, bringing tears into her eyes. The floating pollen seemed to be his notes made visible, and the dampness of the garden the weeping of the garden’s sensibility. Though near nightfall, the rank-smelling weed-flowers glowed as if they could not close for intentness, and the waves of colour mixed with the waves of sound.

The light which still shone was derived entirely from a large hole in the western bank of cloud; it was like a piece of day left behind by accident, dusk having closed in elsewhere. He concluded his plaintive melody, a very simple performance, demanding no great skill; and she waited thinking another might begin. But, tired of playing, he had desultorily come round the fence, and was rambling behind her. Tess, her cheeks on fire, moved away furtively, as if hardly moving at all.

QUESTION 2

Discuss whether or not Moll Flanders’ repentance is credible, with detailed reference to the text.

QUESTION 3

“Elizabeth has a dimension of complexity, a questioning awareness, a mental range and depth which almost makes her an isolated figure trapped in a constricting web of a small number of simple people. Darcy is posited as intricate to make her a match, but in truth he appears more to be honourable and reserved. ...He is, however, capable of appreciating the intricacy of Elizabeth, so that in effect he can rescue her from the incipient claustrophobia of her life among simple people, and offer her more social and psychological space to move around in. (The good simple, Jane and Bingley, join them in Derbyshire – the rest are left behind.)” (Tony Tanner)

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1 To spread over a wide area [for example, smoke billows].
2 Describes something which sounds slightly sad.
3 Without a clear plan or purpose and showing little effort or interest.
4 Walking.
5 Secretly so that other people do not notice.
QUESTION 3 continued

Assess the veracity\(^6\) of these observations with detailed reference to *Pride and Prejudice*.

QUESTION 4

Analyse Charles Dickens’ critique of the obsession with notions of gentility that pervades the English novel, with detailed reference to *Great Expectations*.

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\(^6\) Accuracy.