UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL: PIETERMARITZBURG
EXAMINATION: DECEMBER 2015 (Supp)
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 2 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

"Defoe has given us a marvelous picture of a consistent psychology. From the initial affair with the elder brother, where he makes clear how avarice and lechery become fused in her mind, her history is one where mercenary motives not only supersede emotional, sexual and moral ones, but actually comprehend them. He organizes imagery and incident to dramatize Moll's confusion. Ageing and experience for Moll are matters of dealing more shrewdly with dwindling assets; friendship is a profitable business partnership; religion a property to be traded in when the market is right. Courtship becomes a prolonged negotiation over settlements, lovemaking an exchange of coins and purses; tenderness manifests itself in the payment of a reckoning, and an emotional crisis prompts the automatic gesture of clutching at the contents of the pocket." (Juliet McMaster)

Evaluate this reading of Moll Flanders with detailed reference to Daniel Defoe's novel.

QUESTION 2

Analyse the nature of the Bennet family and discuss the manner in which Jane Austen rigorously dissects the strengths and weaknesses of its members.
QUESTION 3

Compare and contrast Thomas Hardy's portrayal of Alec D'Urbervilles and Angel Clare, in *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, and discuss his intentions in drawing parallels between them.

QUESTION 4

"...the best part of the tale - the account of the vacillations of the hero between the humble life to which he owes everything, and the gorgeous life from which he expects something, touches a very true and somewhat tragic part of morals; for the great paradox of morality (the paradox to which only the religions have given an adequate expression) is that the very vilest kind of fault is exactly the most easy kind. We read in books and ballads about the wild fellow who might kill a man or smoke opium, but would never stoop to lying or cowardice or to anything 'mean'. But for actual human beings opium and slaughter have only the occasional charm; the permanent human temptation is the temptation to be mean....The circle of traitors is the lowest of the abyss, and it is also the easiest to fall into." (G.K. Chesterton)

Assess this observation with detailed reference to at least two leading characters in Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*. 