

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600086  
(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2019-20 & thereafter)

SUBJECT CODE: 19EL/PC/SH44

M. A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2021  
BRANCH VII - ENGLISH  
FOURTH SEMESTER

COURSE: POSTGRADUATE CORE  
PAPER: SHAKESPEARE

TIME: 1 ½ HOURS  
MAX. MARKS: 50

- I. Answer any three of the following in about 300 words each. (3x10=30)**
1. Lady Macbeth accuses Macbeth of being “Infirm of purpose”. Do you think this impression of Macbeth is justified at the end of the play?
  2. "The witches are the heroines of the piece, however little the play itself recognizes the fact, and however much the critics may have set out to defame them." Do you agree with Terry Eagleton's opinion of the witches? Justify your answer using examples from the text.
  3. Analyse the theme of appearance versus reality in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.
  4. How does Shakespeare employ seasonal imagery in his sonnets?
  5. Comment on the use of flashbacks in the tavern scene by Branagh and Olivier.
- II. Answer any one of the following in about 750 words each. (1x20=20)**
6. Analyse the ways in which *A Midsummer Night's Dream* critiques or perpetuates the constraints of gender roles at the time in which it is set.
  7. Donaldson observes that while Olivier’s film is “psychologically *static*” and shows a king whose “personality is complete at the start”, Branagh’s version is “a bildungsroman and its view of the king is deeply developmental”. Analyse any scene from the movies with reference to this statement.

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