

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086
(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2011– 12 & thereafter)

SUBJECT CODE: 11EL/MC/DR14

B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2012
BRANCH XII – ENGLISH
FIRST SEMESTER

COURSE : MAJOR – CORE
PAPER : DRAMA I
TIME : 3 HOURS
MAX. MARKS : 100

I. Read the following passages from *Doctor Faustus* and answer the questions below:
(2×20 = 40)

A. FAUSTUS. How comes it, then, that he is prince of devils?

MEPHOSTOPHILIS. O, by aspiring pride and insolence;
For which God threw him from the face of heaven.

FAUSTUS. And what are you that live with Lucifer?

MEPHOST. Unhappy spirits that fell with Lucifer,
Conspir'd against our God with Lucifer,
And are for ever damn'd with Lucifer.

FAUSTUS. Where are you damn'd?

MEPHOST. In hell.

FAUSTUS. How comes it, then, that thou art out of hell?

MEPHOST. Why, this is hell, nor am I out of it:
Think'st thou that I, that saw the face of God,
And tasted the eternal joys of heaven,
Am not tormented with ten thousand hells,
In being depriv'd of everlasting bliss?
O, Faustus, leave these frivolous demands,
Which strike a terror to my fainting soul!

FAUSTUS. What, is great Mephostophilis so passionate
For being deprived of the joys of heaven?
Learn thou of Faustus manly fortitude,
And scorn those joys thou never shalt possess.
Go bear these tidings to great Lucifer:
Seeing Faustus hath incurr'd eternal death
By desperate thoughts against Jove's deity,
Say, he surrenders up to him his soul,
So he will spare him four and twenty years,
Letting him live in all voluptuousness;

Having thee ever to attend on me,
 To give me whatsoever I shall ask,
 To tell me whatsoever I demand,
 To slay mine enemies, and to aid my friends,
 And always be obedient to my will.
 Go, and return to mighty Lucifer,
 And meet me in my study at midnight,
 And then resolve me of thy master's mind.

Questions:

1. How did Lucifer become the prince of devils? (4)
2. What does Mephostophilis mean when he states: "Why, this is hell, nor am I out of it."? (4)
3. Comment on the pride of Dr. Faustus. (4)
4. Compare the character of Mephostophilis and Dr. Faustus. (4)
5. "Learn thou of Faustus manly fortitude," Explain the irony in these lines. (4)

B. MEPHOST. Marriage is but a ceremonial toy,
 And, if thou lov'st me, think no more of it.
 I'll cull thee out the fairest courtezans,
 And bring them every morning to thy bed:
 She whom thine eye shall like, thy heart shall have,
 Were she as chaste as was Penelope,
 As wise as Saba, or as beautiful
 As was bright Lucifer before his fall.
 Here, take this book, peruse it well:
 The iterating of these lines brings gold;
 The framing of this circle on the ground
 Brings thunder, whirlwinds, storm, and lightning;
 Pronounce this thrice devoutly to thyself,
 And men in harness shall appear to thee,
 Ready to execute what thou command'st.

FAUSTUS. Thanks, Mephostophilis, for this sweet book:
 This will I keep as chary as my life.

FAUSTUS. When I behold the heavens, then I repent,
 And curse thee, wicked Mephostophilis,
 Because thou hast depriv'd me of those joys.

MEPHOST. 'Twas thine own seeking, Faustus; thank thyself.
 But, think'st thou heaven is such a glorious thing?
 I tell thee, Faustus, it is not half so fair
 As thou, or any man that breathes on earth.

FAUSTUS. How prov'st thou that?

MEPHOST. 'Twas made for man; then he's more excellent.

FAUSTUS. If heaven was made for man, 'twas made for me:
I will renounce this magic and repent.

1. Why does Mephostophilis say "Marriage is but a ceremonial toy" ? (4)
2. Explain the reference to Penelope and Saba. (4)
3. Why does Dr. Faustus say that he would keep the book "as chary as my life"? (4)
4. Comment on the oscillating mind of Dr. Faustus? (4)
5. What is heaven according to Mephostophilis? (4)

II. Answer the following in about 750 words each:

(3 × 20 = 60)

- a. Critically examine *Doctor Faustus* as a morality play.
- Or**
- b. Identify the tragic flaw of Dr. Faustus and elaborate.
- c. Do you consider Mephostophilis the sole cause of Dr. Faustus's ruin? Explain.
- Or**
- d. How does Nora Helmer emerge as a symbol of the New Woman?
- e. Compare and contrast the character of Nora and Helmer.
- Or**
- f. Ibsen's *A Doll's House* is a typical example of the play of ideas. Elucidate.
