

**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 2023**  
**BRANCH VII - ENGLISH**  
**FOURTH SEMESTER**

**COURSE: CORE**  
**TITLE: SHAKESPEARE**

**TIME: 3 HOURS**  
**MAX. MARKS: 100**

**SECTION – A**

**I. Answer any four of the following questions in about 300 words each. (4x10=40)**

1. Do you agree with the view that Laurence Olivier's purported spirit of nationalism in his film version of *Henry V* is out of sync with our modern sensibilities? Give reasons.
2. "Puck's Epilogue to *A Midsummer Night's Dream* articulates the newly forming aesthetics of Shakespeare." Discuss.
3. Comment on Harold Bloom's observation "No one desires *Macbeth* to lose its witches because of their dramatic immediacy, yet the play's cosmological vision renders them a little redundant."
4. How does Shakespeare unlock his heart using the sonnet form as his key?
5. Why does Kenneth Branagh say that to him *Henry V* "seemed darker, harsher and the language more bloody and muscular"?
6. In *Macbeth*, Shakespeare "experiments with a tragic consciousness structured around guilt." Discuss.

**SECTION – B**

**II. Answer any three of the following questions in about 750 words each. (3x20=60)**

7. "What is funny about the inset play in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is that its actors remain so resolutely themselves." Discuss.
8. "Over the centuries the characterization of Macbeth has been regularly conditioned by that of his Lady." Comment.
9. How did Laurence Olivier's *Henry V* contribute "to home-front morale in the last years of World War II, at once celebrating military prowess and England's Great Poet"?
10. How and why does Shakespeare use the Chorus in *Henry V* as a creative strategy to exhort the audience to participate in the "play's imaginative reconstruction of history"?
11. Respond to the statement: "Looking for autobiographical overtones in Shakespeare's sonnets undermines their thematic richness."

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