

**STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), CHENNAI – 600086**  
**(for candidates admitted during the academic year 2019-20 & thereafter)**

**M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2024**  
**BRANCH VII - ENGLISH**  
**FOURTH SEMESTER**

**COURSE : CORE**  
**TITLE : SHAKESPEARE**  
**SUBJECT CODE : 19EL/PC/SH44**  
**TIME : 3 HOURS** **MAX. MARKS: 100**

**SECTION – A**

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

1. Explain Macbeth's vaulting ambition as revealed in the lines, "I have no spur /To prick the sides of my intent, but only /Vaulting ambition, which o'erleaps itself /And falls on the other."
2. Critically examine instances of adherence to the traditional gender roles, and behaviours that are visibly against such norms in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.
3. Explain the use and significance of period costumes and the blending of styles in *Henry V* directed by Laurence Olivier.
4. Comment on the portrayal of an ideal marriage in the sonnet "Let me not to the marriage of true minds".
5. How do Branagh and Olivier use the flashback to interpret Falstaff's role in *Henry V*?
6. Analyse the seasonal imagery used in "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day".

**SECTION – B**

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

7. How does Shakespeare present the guilt-ridden conscience of Lady Macbeth?
8. Does Shakespeare establish marriage as the true fulfilment of romantic love in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*? Debate.
9. How does Shakespeare present the morality of Henry's decision to go to war and his other political actions in *Henry V*? Discuss.
10. Compare and contrast Kenneth Branagh's and Laurence Olivier's directorial vision in their film adaptations of *Henry V*.
11. "Critics faced with the daunting interpretative task of Shakespeare's sonnets have often resorted to speculation about the poet's relations with the 'young man' of the first sequence, or the ethics of his addresses to the promiscuous 'dark lady.' – Comment on the above view, and discuss the key thematic directions in Shakespeare's sonnets, with reference to the sonnets prescribed for study.

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