

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086
(For candidates admitted from the academic year 2010-11)

SUBJECT CODE: EL/PC/SH44

M. A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2012
BRANCH VII – ENGLISH
FOURTH SEMESTER

COURSE : CORE
PAPER : SHAKESPEARE
TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS: 100

1. Choose any one passage: (25 Marks)

- a) **HAMLET** : Are you fair?
OPHELIA : What means your lordship?
HAMLET : That if you be honest and fair, your honesty should admit no discourse to your beauty.
OPHELIA: Could beauty, my lord, have better commerce than with honesty?
HAMLET; Ay, truly; for the power of beauty will sooner transform honesty from what it is to a bawd than the force of honesty can translate beauty into his likeness: this was sometime a paradox, but now the time gives it proof. I did love you once.
OPHELIA: Indeed, my lord, you made me believe so.
HAMLET: You should not have believed me; for virtue cannot so inoculate our old stock but we shall relish of it: I loved you not.
OPHELIA: I was the more deceived.
HAMLET: Get thee to a nunnery: why wouldst thou be a breeder of sinners? I am myself indifferent honest; but yet I could accuse me of such things that it were better my mother had not borne me: I am very proud, revengeful, ambitious, with more offences at my beck than I have thoughts to put them in, imagination to give them shape, or time to act them in. What should such fellows as I do crawling between earth and heaven? We are arrant knaves, all; believe none of us. Go thy ways to a nunnery. Where's your father?
OPHELIA: At home, my lord.
HAMLET: Let the doors be shut upon him, that he may play the fool no where but in's own house. Farewell.
OPHELIA: O, help him, you sweet heavens!

HAMLET: If thou dost marry, I'll give thee this plague for thy dowry: be thou as chaste as ice, as pure as snow, thou shalt not escape calumny. Get thee to a nunnery, go: farewell. Or, if thou wilt needs marry, marry a fool; for wise men know well enough what monsters you make of them. To a nunnery, go, and quickly too. Farewell.

OPHELIA: O heavenly powers, restore him!

HAMLET: I have heard of your paintings too, well enough; God has given you one face, and you make yourselves another: you jig, you amble, and you lisp, and nick-name God's creatures, and make your wantonness your ignorance. Go to, I'll no more on't; it hath made me mad. I say, we will have no more marriages: those that are married already, all but one, shall live; the rest shall keep as they are. To a nunnery, go.

Using the passage as the background analyse the relationship between Hamlet and Ophelia.

OR

b) **MIRANDA:** If by your art, my dearest father, you have
Put the wild waters in this roar, allay them.
The sky, it seems, would pour down stinking pitch,
But that the sea, mounting to th' welkin's cheek,
Dashes the fire out. O, I have suffered(5)
With those that I saw suffer! A brave vessel,
Who had, no doubt, some noble creature in her,
Dashed all to pieces! O, the cry did knock
Against my very heart! Poor souls, they perished.
Had I been any god of power, I would(10)
Have sunk the sea within the earth, or ere
It should the good ship so have swallowed and
The fraughting souls within her.

PROSPERO: Be collected.
No more amazement. Tell your piteous heart(15)
There's no harm done.

MIRANDA: O, woe the day!

PROSPERO: No harm.
I have done nothing but in care of thee,
Of thee, my dear one, thee, my daughter, who(20)
Art ignorant of what thou art, naught knowing
Of whence I am, nor that I am more better
Than Prospero, master of a full poor cell,
And thy no greater father.

Why should Prospero raise a storm? Consider the storm as a major symbol and tool in the play *The Tempest*.

2. Hamlet claims that his madness is feigned, an "antic disposition" which he puts on for his own purposes. How does madness help him achieve his ends?

OR

Attempt a postcolonial reading of the play THE TEMPEST.

(25 marks)

3. You may attempt any two:

(2x25 = 50 marks)

- a. Though Romantic Comedy offers a happy ending, Shakespeare shows that characters in love can still undergo pain and suffering. Discuss.
- b. How did the Elizabethans understand and the concept of English history? Examine Shakespeare's treatment of history in his history plays.
- c. What is peculiar about Shakespeare's problem plays? Analyse in detail.
- d. Examine the Roman traits and virtues that Shakespeare attempts to exhibit in Roman plays.
