

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086
(For candidates admitted from the academic year 2008 – 09)

SUBJECT CODE: EL/PC/SH44

M. A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2011
BRANCH VII – ENGLISH
FOURTH SEMESTER

COURSE : CORE
PAPER : SHAKESPEARE
TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS: 100

1. Choose any one passage:

(25 Marks)

- a) To be, or not to be: that is the question:
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,
And by opposing end them? To die: to sleep;
No more; and by a sleep to say we end
The heart-ache and the thousand natural shocks
That flesh is heir to, 'tis a consummation
Devoutly to be wish'd. To die, to sleep;
To sleep: perchance to dream: ay, there's the rub;
For in that sleep of death what dreams may come
When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,
Must give us pause: there's the respect
That makes calamity of so long life;
For who would bear the whips and scorns of time,
The oppressor's wrong, the proud man's contumely,
The pangs of despised love, the law's delay,
The insolence of office and the spurns
That patient merit of the unworthy takes,
When he himself might his quietus make
With a bare bodkin? who would fardels bear,
To grunt and sweat under a weary life,
But that the dread of something after death,
The undiscover'd country from whose bourn
No traveller returns, puzzles the will
And makes us rather bear those ills we have
Than fly to others that we know not of?
Thus conscience does make cowards of us all;
And thus the native hue of resolution
Is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought,
And enterprises of great pith and moment
With this regard their currents turn awry,
And lose the name of action.--Soft you now!
The fair Ophelia! Nymph, in thy orisons
Be all my sins remember'd.

Bring out the implications of how Hamlet deals with his vacillating nature mentioned in the above passage.

OR

- b) Ye elves of hills, brooks, standing lakes and groves,
 And ye that on the sands with printless foot
 Do chase the ebbing Neptune and do fly him
 When he comes back; you demi-puppets that
 By moonshine do the green sour ringlets make,
 Whereof the ewe not bites, and you whose pastime
 Is to make midnight mushrooms, that rejoice
 To hear the solemn curfew; by whose aid,
 Weak masters though ye be, I have bedimm'd
 The noontide sun, call'd forth the mutinous winds,
 And 'twixt the green sea and the azured vault
 Set roaring war: to the dread rattling thunder
 Have I given fire and rifted Jove's stout oak
 With his own bolt; the strong-based promontory
 Have I made shake and by the spurs pluck'd up
 The pine and cedar: graves at my command
 Have waked their sleepers, oped, and let 'em forth
 By my so potent art. But this rough magic
 I here abjure, and, when I have required
 Some heavenly music, which even now I do,
 To work mine end upon their senses that
 This airy charm is for, I'll break my staff,
 Bury it certain fathoms in the earth,
 And deeper than did ever plummet sound
 I'll drown my book.

Debate the autobiographical significance of the *Tempest* in the light of the above passage.

(25 Marks)

2. a. Through Hamlet, one of the most enigmatic among his characters, Shakespeare explores the intricacies of the human psyche – Do you agree? Discuss with reference psychological interpretations of Hamlet.

OR

- b. Prospero's treatment of Caliban can be taken as emblematic of the coloniser's ways of dealing with the colonised. Discuss.

3. Attempt any TWO:

(2x25=50 Marks)

- Examine Shakespeare's treatment of love in his Romantic Comedies.
- How did Shakespeare modify/alter historical material in his chronicle plays?
- Consider *Measure for Measure* as a Problem Play.
- Analyse Shakespeare's notion of political correctness and public opinion with reference to his presentation of Roman leaders.
