

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086
(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2011–2012)

SUBJECT CODE: 11EL/MC/SH54

B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2013
BRANCH XII – ENGLISH
FIFTH SEMESTER

COURSE : MAJOR CORE
PAPER : SHAKESPEARE
TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS: 100

SECTION A

Read the following passage and answer the questions given below: (20 marks)

DUKE SENIOR: Why, how now, monsieur! what a life is this,
That your poor friends must woo your company?
What, you look merrily!

JAQUES: A fool, a fool! I met a fool i' the forest,
A motley fool; a miserable world!
As I do live by food, I met a fool
Who laid him down and bask'd him in the sun,
And rail'd on Lady Fortune in good terms,
In good set terms and yet a motley fool.
'Good morrow, fool,' quoth I. 'No, sir,' quoth he,
'Call me not fool till heaven hath sent me fortune.'
And then he drew a dial from his poke,
And, looking on it with lack-lustre eye,
Says very wisely, 'It is ten o'clock:
Thus we may see,' quoth he, 'how the world wags:
'Tis but an hour ago since it was nine,
And after one hour more 'twill be eleven;
And so, from hour to hour, we ripe and ripe,
And then, from hour to hour, we rot and rot;
And thereby hangs a tale.' When I did hear
The motley fool thus moral on the time,
My lungs began to crow like chanticleer,
That fools should be so deep-contemplative,
And I did laugh sans intermission
An hour by his dial. O noble fool!
A worthy fool! Motley's the only wear.

DUKE SENIOR: What fool is this?

JAQUES: O worthy fool! One that hath been a courtier,
 And says, if ladies be but young and fair,
 They have the gift to know it: and in his brain,
 Which is as dry as the remainder biscuit
 After a voyage, he hath strange places cramm'd
 With observation, the which he vents
 In mangled forms. O that I were a fool!
 I am ambitious for a motley coat.

DUKE SENIOR: Thou shalt have one.

JAQUES: It is my only suit;
 Provided that you weed your better judgments
 Of all opinion that grows rank in them
 That I am wise. I must have liberty
 Withal, as large a charter as the wind,
 To blow on whom I please; for so fools have;
 And they that are most galled with my folly,
 They most must laugh. And why, sir, must they so?
 The 'why' is plain as way to parish church:
 He that a fool doth very wisely hit
 Doth very foolishly, although he smart,
 Not to seem senseless of the bob: if not,
 The wise man's folly is anatomized
 Even by the squandering glances of the fool.
 Invest me in my motley; give me leave
 To speak my mind, and I will through and through
 Cleanse the foul body of the infected world,
 If they will patiently receive my medicine.

1. What credits does Jacques attribute to a fool? (6 marks)
2. Discuss the poetic elements found in the passage. (6 marks)
3. Comment on the musings of Jaques. (8 marks)

SECTION B

Answer any TWO of the following in about 250 words each: (2x10=20)

1. Analyse the central character of the play *Othello*.
2. Do you consider the role of Falstaff essential to the play *Henry IV Part I*? Discuss.
3. Elucidate how the pastoral life influences the characters in the play *As You Like It*.
4. Examine why Rosalind chose to disguise herself in the play *As You Like It* and how does it exactly serve her purpose.

SECTION C

Answer the following in about 750 words each:

(3x20=60)

1. Illustrate your observations of Shakespeare's treatment of 'love' from his sonnets.

OR

Analyse in detail the key factors in the play *As You Like It* that make it one of the popular plays of Shakespeare.

2. Do you consider Desdemona and Emilia's views on love, marriage and men identical? Discuss.

OR

Discuss and analyse racism and oppression of women in the play *Othello*.

3. Attempt a comparative study of Prince Hal and Hotspur.

OR

Discuss the attitudinal changes found in the major characters in *Henry IV Part I* and how they affect the development of the play.
