

B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2011
BRANCH XII – ENGLISH
FIFTH SEMESTER

COURSE : MAJOR – CORE
PAPER : SHAKESPEARE
TIME : 3 HOURS **MAX. MARKS : 100**

I. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow: (15 marks)

MALVOLIO Were not you even now with the Countess Olivia?

VIOLA Even now, sir; on a moderate pace I have since arrived but hither.

MALVOLIO She returns this ring to you, sir: you might have saved me my pains, to have taken it away yourself. She adds, moreover, that you should put your lord into a desperate assurance she will none of him: and one thing more, that you be never so hardy to come again in his affairs, unless it be to report your lord's taking of this. Receive it so.

VIOLA She took the ring of me: I'll none of it.

MALVOLIO Come, sir, you peevishly threw it to her; and her will is, it should be so returned: if it be worth stooping for, there it lies in your eye; if not, be it his that finds it.

Exit

VIOLA I left no ring with her: what means this lady? Fortune forbid my outside have not charm'd her! She made good view of me; indeed, so much, That sure methought her eyes had lost her tongue, For she did speak in starts distractedly. She loves me, sure; the cunning of her passion Invites me in this churlish messenger. None of my lord's ring! why, he sent her none. I am the man: if it be so, as 'tis, Poor lady, she were better love a dream. Disguise, I see, thou art a wickedness, Wherein the pregnant enemy does much. How easy is it for the proper-false In women's waxen hearts to set their forms! Alas, our frailty is the cause, not we! For such as we are made of, such we be. How will this fudge? my master loves her dearly; And I, poor monster, fond as much on him; And she, mistaken, seems to dote on me.

What will become of this? As I am man,
 My state is desperate for my master's love;
 As I am woman, —now alas the day! —
 What thriftless sighs shall poor Olivia breathe!
 O time! thou must untangle this, not I;
 It is too hard a knot for me to untie!

1. Explain the lines: I am the man: if it be so, as 'tis, / Poor lady, she were better love a dream. (2)
2. How does Viola come to know of Olivia's love for her? (3)
3. Comment on the predicament of Viola. (5)
4. Comment on the dramatic irony in the passage. (5)

II. Answer any THREE of the following in 250-300 words each: (3x15=45)

1. Comment on the role of 'mistaken identity' in Twelfth Night.
2. 'Frailty' is what women are composed of, according to Shakespeare. Discuss this in the light of the characters of Viola and Olivia.
3. Bradley pointed out that "Evil has nowhere else been portrayed with such mastery as in the character of Iago." Discuss.
4. Prince Harry's nature is more impressive and striking than that of Hotspur. Discuss whether you agree or not.
5. According to Shakespeare 'love' is engulfed by excuses, not ready to get altered under any circumstances. Discuss this in the light of the sonnets prescribed for study.

III. Answer any TWO of the following in 750 words each: (2x20=40)

1. "Much comedy is festive—all comedy, if the word festive is pressed far enough. But much of Shakespeare's comedy is festive in a quite special way..." Based on this statement by C.L. Barber attempt a critical study of "Twelfth Night".
2. Examine the key factors that led to the tragic destruction of Othello.
3. Would you agree with the statement that Prince Hal is a subtle blend of Hotspur and Sir John Falstaff? Discuss your views.
4. Ben Jonson remarked about Shakespeare that "He (Shakespeare) was not of an age, but for all time!" Do you agree? Validate your views based on the plays prescribed for study.
