

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

SUBJECT CODE: EL/PC/SH25

M. A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2009

BRANCH VII – ENGLISH

SECOND SEMESTER

COURSE : CORE

PAPER : SHAKESPEARE

TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS: 100

1. ANSWER ANY FOUR QUESTIONS: (4X25=100)

1. Choose any one passage and answer the questions that follow: (25)

a. Prospero:

You do look, my son, in a mov'd sort,
As if you were dismay'd; be cheerful, sir:
Our revels are now ended. These our actors,
As I foretold you, ere all spirits
Are melded into air, into thin air:
And, like the baseless fabric of this vision,
The cloud-capp'd towers the gorgeous palaces,
The solemn temples, the great globe itself,
Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve
And, like this insubstantial pageant faded,
Leave not a rack behind. We are such stuff
As dreams are made on, and our little life
Is rounded with a sleep.- Sir, I am vex'd:

1. What are the plots referred to in the line "Our revels are now ended"?
2. How do the resolution of these revels determine the play as romance?

b. Hamlet:

.... 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 pitch and moment
With this regard their current turn awry,
And lose the name of action.

1. Explain Hamlet's state of mind in this Soliloquy.
2. Explain the reasons that problematize Hamlet's decision making.

2. “The most tragic, the most affecting thing in the world is the ruin of a high soul... of great nature confronted with a low environment”- Analyse the play **Hamlet** in the light of this comment by E.K. Chambers.

(OR)

Discuss *Tempest* as a play about a “devil – a born devil” (Caliban), “grace and charm” (Ariel) and “moral sense and humanness” (Prospero) (25)

3. **Attempt any two of the following:** (2x25=50)

- a. Consider the sonnets 1-10 as essentially personal and private compositions.
- b. Would you subscribe to the view that human beings exist invariably in societal groupings so that their problems must in some way manifest human society? Justify with illustrations from *Measure for Measure*.
- c. Examine how the theme of the triumph of love and friendship over malice and cruelty is the theme of Romantic comedies.
- d. Comment on Tillyard’s statement “The picture we get from Shakespeare’s *Histories* is that of disorder”
