

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086
(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2004 – 05 & thereafter)

SUBJECT CODE: EL/MC/SH54

B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2008
BRANCH XII – ENGLISH
FIFTH SEMESTER

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

SECTION - A

Analyse any ONE passage with reference to theme, technique, style and dramatic function. **(1x15=15)**

1. Prince Henry: I know you all and will awhile uphold
The unyok'd humour of your idleness:
Yet herein will I imitate the sun,
Who doth permit the base contagious clouds
To smother up his beauty in the world,
That, when he please again be himself,
Being wanted, he may be more wonder'd at,
By breaking through the foul and ugly mists
Of vapours that seem'd to strangle him.
If all the years were playing holidays,
To sport would be as serious as to work;
But when they seldom come, they wish'd for come,
And nothing pleaseth but rare accidents,
So, when this loose behaviour I throw off,
And pay the debt I never promised,
By how much better than my word I am,
By so much shall I falsify men's hopes;
And, like bright metal on sullen ground,
My reformation glittering o'er my fault,
Shall show more goodly and attract more eyes
Than that which hath no foil to set it off.

2. Jacques: All the world's a stage
And all men and women merely players;
They have their exits and entrances;
And one man in his time plays many parts,
His acts being seven ages. At first the infant,
Mewling and puking in the nurse's arms;
Then the whining school-boy, with his satchel
And shining morning face, creeping like snail
Unwilling to school. And then the lover,
Sighing like furnace, with a woeful ballad
Made to his mistress's eyebrow. Then a soldier,
Full of strange oaths, and bearded like the pard,

..2..

Jealous in honour, sudden and quick in quarrel,
Seeking the bubble reputation

EL/MC/SH54

..2

Even in the cannon's mouth. And then the justice,
In fair round belly with good capon lin'd
With eyes severe and beard of formal cut,
Full of wise saws and modern instances;
And so he plays his part. The sixth age shifts
Into the lean and slipper'd pantaloon,
With spectacles on nose and pouch on side;
His youthful hose, well sav'd, a world too wide
For his shrunk shank; and his big manly voice,
Turning again toward childish treble, pipes
And whistles in his sound. Last scene of all,
That ends this strange and eventful history,
Is second childishness and mere oblivion;
Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything.

SECTION - B

Answer any FOUR of the following in about 200 words each. (4x10=40)

1. Discuss the use of songs in Shakespeare's Romantic Comedies.
2. What is the role of the fool in Shakespeare's plays?
3. Write a note on the use of disguise in Shakespeare's "As You Like It".
4. What are the major themes in the sonnets of Shakespeare?
5. Discuss the soliloquies of Iago. How are they crucial to an understanding of his character?
6. How is the theme of honour dealt with in Shakespeare's "King Henry IV Part I"?
7. What is the role of women in Shakespeare's comedies?
8. How does Shakespeare make use of dramatic irony in his plays?

SECTION - C

Answer the following in about 500 words each. (3x15=45)

1. a. Discuss the role that race plays in Shakespeare's portrayal of "Othello".
OR
b. Analyse Desdemona's role in "Othello". To what extent is she a passive victim of Othello's brutality?
2. a. Henry IV Part I "is a deliberate study of kingship ... and Hal is ... equally at home in the court and the tavern ... given to neither of the two excesses of 'honour' and 'dishonour' symbolized by Hotspur and Falstaff respectively." Discuss.
OR
b. Write an essay on the rejection of Falstaff by Hal.
3. a. Discuss the major themes in "As You Like It".
OR
b. Discuss "As You Like It" as an example of pastoral literature and explore how Shakespeare transcends the traditional.
