### <u>STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086</u> (For candidates admitted from the academic year 2004 – 05 & thereafter) SUBJECT CODE: EL/PC/SH24 <u>M. A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2007</u> BRANCH VII – ENGLISH SECOND SEMESTER

COURSE : CORE PAPER : SHAKESPEARE TIME : 3 HOURS

Enter Hamlet

a.

**MAX. MARKS: 100** 

## 1. CHOOSE ANY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TWO PASSAGES :

HAMLET 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 heartache, and the thousand natural shocks That flesh is heir to. 'Tis a consummation Devoutly to be wished. 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, Th' 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 th' 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 undiscovered 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 currents turn awry And lose the name of action. – Soft you now, The fair Ophelia! – Nymph, in thy orisons Be all my sins remembered.

#### EL/PC/SH24

Using the passage as point of reference attempt a character sketch of Hamlet in the light of following observations:

• Of all the soliloquies this is central to the understanding of Hamlet, but he has been variously interpreted.

121

- This soliloquy anticipates Act V.
- All interpretations of this soliloquy and thereby of Hamlet conform either to the secular or transcendental plane of thought.

#### (**O**r)

b. **Prospero.** I'll deliver all; And promise you calm seas, auspicious gales, And sail so expeditious, that shall catch Your royal fleet far off (**Aside to Ariel**) My Ariel, chick, That is thy charge: then to the elements Be free, and fare thou well! Please you, draw near (**Exeunt.**)

Imagine that you are writing a term paper on The Tempest. Your argument is that central to <u>The Tempest</u> is Freedom and not as Marxists, multiculturalists, feminists and New Historicists - some ideologues these! – would make it out to be. Would the passage cited above offer substance to your argument?

(25 marks)

2. Examine the features of Shakespearean tragedy with reference to the play <u>Hamlet.</u>

(**or**)

What is your opinion on the theme of interlacing themes of <u>The Tempest</u>? (25 marks)

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

- a) "Character is Destiny". Discuss this statement with reference to the character of Richard II.
- b) How do the Roman plays of Shakespeare differ from his other tragedies?
- c) Examine the key elements of Romantic Comedy.

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