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Reg. No. : .....

Name : .....

First Semester M.A. Degree Examination, August 2021

English Language and Literature

Core Course : Paper II

EL 212 : SHAKESPEARE STUDIES

(2017 Admission Onwards)

Time : 3 Hours Max. Marks : 75

I. Answer **any five** of the following in about **50** words.

1. Shakespeare's theatre.

2. Describe the Elizabethan audience.

3. Give an account of the character of Ophilia.

4. What are the similarities and differences in Viola's and Olivia's circumstances in the *Twelfth Night?*

5. Character Sketch of Falstaff.

6. The difficulty of making meaningful choices in "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead".

7. What are differences between The Petrarchan and The Shakespearean sonnets?

8. The theme of power in *Ran*.

(5 × 2 = 10 Marks)

P.T.O.

II. Comment critically **on any two** of the following choosing **one** from each group.

SECTION – A

9. “Be not afraid of greatness.
Some are born great, some achieve greatness,
and others have greatness thrust upon them”.

10. Her speech is nothing.
Yet the unshapèd use of it doth move
The hearers to collection. They yawn at it
And botch the words up fit to their own thoughts,
Which, as her winks and nods and gestures yield them,
Indeed would make one think there might be thought,
Though nothing sure, yet much unhappily.

SECTION – B

11. Neither a borrower nor a lender be;
For loan oft loses both itself and friend,
and borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry.

12. Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimm’d;
And every fair from fair sometime declines,
By chance or nature’s changing course untrimm’d;

(2 × 5 = 10 Marks)

III. Write short notes on **any two** of the following in about **150** words.

13. The Dark Lady in Shakespearean Sonnets.

14. What is the meaning of Falstaff's motto "the better part of valour is discretion" in Henry IV, Part One?

15. Choral characters in Shakespeare.

16. Procrastination in Hamlet.

(2 × 5 = 10 Marks)

IV. Write essays on **any three** of the following in about **500** words choosing **one** from each section.

SECTION – A

17. The predicaments that Hamlet faces are those that have always confronted mankind: the desire to take revenge; rejected love; parent /child conflicts. Do you agree?

18. Discuss the various changes that Lady Olivia undergoes during the course of the play *Twelfth Night*. How can these changes be accounted for?

19. Outline the history of and the literary patterns in the traditional morality play and discuss why Henry IV, Part I itself could be considered a morality play.

(1 × 15 = 15 Marks)

SECTION – B

20. *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* is an absurdist, existential tragi-comedy. Substantiate.

21. How does Johnson defend Shakespeare's Violation of the three unities in "Preface to Shakespeare" and what are the major points in the Preface to Shakespeare?

22. Show how *shylock is my Name* is a modern re - imagining of the Character of shylock from Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice.*

(1 × 15 = 15 Marks)

SECTION – C

23. What are the postcolonial elements in *The Tempest*? Elaborate.

24. Discuss the major themes and characters in the Sonnets of Shakespeare.

25. Discuss the form and structure of Shakespearean tragedies.

(1 × 15 = 15 Marks)

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