

MASTER OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2025
First Year, Second Semester
ENGLISH
Shakespeare

Time: Two Hours

Full Marks: 30

Answer *any three* of the following questions. All questions carry equal marks.

1. (a) How do you distinguish between the good quartos and the bad quartos of Shakespeare's plays? Discuss in detail, with proper examples.
OR
(b) Demonstrate the achievements of the following editors of Shakespeare (*any two*):
(i) Nicholas Rowe; (ii) Alexander Pope; (iii) Lewis Theobald; (iii) Edmond Malone.
2. Define the term "Shakespeare apocrypha" with proper examples and discuss in detail *any four* pieces of external evidence for establishing the authorship of plays ascribed to Shakespeare.
3. Examine the role of the Master of the Revels in the censorship and regulation of plays in early 17th-century England.
4. Taking the example of the Globe theatre of Shakespeare's time, discuss how its structural features would be incorporated into performance conventions.
5. Discuss with adequate examples from Shakespeare's plays the use of costumes, props, dance and music (*any two*) on Shakespeare's stage.
6. Critically discuss the contribution of *any two* of the following actors to the performance history of Shakespeare plays: (i) Richard Burbage; (ii) Thomas Betterton; (iii) Sarah Siddons; (iv) Edmund Kean.
7. Write an essay on the reception of Shakespeare in educational institutions of Bengal and academic publications from Bengal during the colonial period.
