

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ENGLISH
Second Year, Second Semester Examinations, 2025
Minor: Introduction To Shakespeare

Time: Two Hours

Full Marks: 30

Answer any three questions. All questions carry equal marks.

CO1: Understand the history and material circumstances of the Renaissance Stage.

Covered by Internal Assessment 1.

CO2: Be familiar with the complexities of dramatic genres, and Shakespeare's language.

1. Answer any two with reference to context:

(5X2)

- a. "Either to die the death or to abjure
For ever the society of men.
Therefore, fair Hermia, question your desires;
Know of your youth, examine well your blood,
Whether, if you yield not to your father's choice,
You can endure the livery of a nun,
For aye to be in shady cloister mew'd,
To live a barren sister all your life,
Chanting faint hymns to the cold fruitless moon.
Thrice-blessed they that master so their blood,
To undergo such maiden pilgrimage;
But earthlier happy is the rose distill'd,
Than that which withering on the virgin thorn
Grows, lives and dies in single blessedness."
- b. "If it were done when 'tis done, then 'twere well
It were done quickly: if the assassination
Could trammel up the consequence, and catch
With his surcease success; that but this blow
Might be the be-all and the end-all here,
But here, upon this bank and shoal of time,
We'd jump the life to come. But in these cases
We still have judgment here; that we but teach
Bloody instructions, which, being taught, return
To plague the inventor: this even-handed justice
Commends the ingredients of our poison'd chalice
To our own lips."
- c. "When I perceive that men as plants increase,
Cheered and cheque'd even by the self-same sky,

Vaunt in their youthful sap, at height decrease,
And wear their brave state out of memory;
Then the conceit of this inconstant stay
Sets you most rich in youth before my sight,
Where wasteful Time debateth with Decay,
To change your day of youth to sullied night;
And all in war with Time for love of you,
As he takes from you, I engraft you new."

- d. "When I a fat and bean-fed horse beguile,
Neighing in likeness of a filly foal:
And sometime lurk I in a gossip's bowl,
In very likeness of a roasted crab,
And when she drinks, against her lips I bob
And on her wither'd dewlap pour the ale.
The wisest aunt, telling the saddest tale,
Sometime for three-foot stool mistaketh me;
Then slip I from her bum, down topples she,
And 'tailor' cries, and falls into a cough;
And then the whole quire hold their hips and laugh,
And waxen in their mirth and neeze and swear
A merrier hour was never wasted there."
- e. "I grant I never saw a goddess go;
My mistress, when she walks, treads on the ground:
And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare
As any she belied with false compare."

CO3: Be able to relate the secondary materials to the texts.

Answer any one:

(10)

2. How do masculinity and morality interact in *Macbeth*? Discuss with close reference to the play.
3. Critically examine Shakespeare's "two loves...of comfort and despair" in his *Sonnets*.
4. "[T]he action of the comedy begins in a world represented as a normal world, moves into the green world, goes into a metamorphosis there in which the comic resolution is achieved, and returns to the normal world". Discuss Northrop Frye's statement with reference to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

CO4: Be able to trace the history of reception and adaptations of Shakespearean texts.

Answer any one:

(10)

5. In what ways does the fatalism in Kurosawa's *Throne of Blood* differ from and intensify the tragic worldview of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*?
6. Write a critical essay on a Shakespearean adaptation (film, theatre, novel) of your own choice with some focus on the departures from the original text.
