

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY
BACHELOR OF ARTS EXAMINATION, 2025
THIRD YEAR SECOND SEMESTER
ENGLISH HONOURS
Detailed Study of a Shakespeare Play

Time: Two Hours

Full Marks: 30

Answer any two questions from Part A and two from Part B.

Part A: (9x2=18)

1. How would you read Coleridge's assertion that Othello "must not be conceived as a negro[sic] but a high and chivalrous Moorish chief"? What does it reveal about the politics of race in the play and in its critical reception?
2. Would you agree with Thomas Rymer's characterisation of *Othello* as a "bloody farce" which could also be called *The Tragedy of the Handkerchief*? Give reasons for your answer.
3. Discuss how ideas of theatricality and storytelling frame the tragic movement of *Othello*.
4. Does Iago demonstrate motiveless malignity? Discuss with reference to the treatment of the categories of the psychological and the moral in *Othello*.
5. Critically comment on Desdemona's dying statement that her killer was, "Nobody, I myself". Does this appear anomalous with her character as it has been portrayed in the rest of the play?
6. Would you agree that the development of Emilia's character in Acts 4 and 5 play an important role in shaping the tragic effect of *Othello*? Give reasons for your answer.
7. Discuss why *Othello* has been one of the most adapted Shakespearean plays on the Indian stage and screen.

Part B: (6x2=12)

Locate and annotate:

8. It was my hint to speak, such was my process:
And of the Cannibals, that each other eat;
The Anthropophagi, and men whose heads
Do grow beneath their shoulders: this to hear
Would Desdemona seriously incline;
... My story being done,
She gave me for my pains a world of sighs.
She swore, in faith, 'twas strange, 'twas passing strange,
'Twas pitiful, 'twas wondrous pitiful.

9. I saw Othello's visage in his mind,
And to his honors and his valiant parts
Did I my soul and fortunes consecrate.
So that, dear lords, if I be left behind,
A moth of peace, and he go to the war,
The rites for why I love him are bereft me
And I a heavy interim shall support
By his dear absence.
10. Farewell the tranquil mind! Farewell content!
Farewell the plumèd troops and the big wars
That makes ambition virtue! O, farewell!
Farewell the neighing steed and the shrill trump,
The spirit-stirring drum, th' ear-piercing fife,
The royal banner, and all quality,
Pride, pomp, and circumstance of glorious war!
And O you mortal engines, whose rude throats
Th' immortal Jove's dread clamors counterfeit,
Farewell! Othello's occupation's gone!
11. There's magic in the web of it.
A sybil that had numbered in the world
The sun to course two hundred compasses,
In her prophetic fury sewed the work.
The worms were hallowed that did breed the silk,
And it was dyed in mummy, which the skillful
Conserved of maidens' hearts.
12. Marry, I would not do such a thing for a joint ring; nor for measures of lawn, nor for gowns, petticoats, nor caps, nor any such exhibition. But for the whole world—
'Uds pity! Who would not make her husband a cuckold, to make him a monarch? I should venture purgatory for 't.
