

BACHELOR OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2017
Third Year Fifth Semester
ENGLISH (HONOURS)
Detailed Study of a Shakespeare Play

Time: Two hours

Full marks: 30

Attempt any three questions, taking at least one from each group.
 All questions carry equal marks. Do not use the same material in more than one answer.

GROUP A

1. Discuss how the text of *The Tragedy of Macbeth* is unsatisfactory and account for its un-Shakespearean impressions.
2. Taking into account two relevant models of tragedy available to Shakespeare, demonstrate how he fashions a tragic protagonist in *Macbeth* out of Holinshed's *Chronicles*.
3. Discuss in detail three pieces of evidence each to suggest an initial cut-off date and a terminal cut-off date for the composition of *Macbeth*.
- 4(a). Reconstruct the stage history of *Macbeth* during the Jacobean period, from textual evidence, surviving documents and circumstantial conjecture. What, therefore, can you conclude about the nature of the play script?

OR

- 4(b). "The approach to Shakespeare in the theatres, from the Restoration to the present, passed through three phases." Discuss, with detailed reference to three important productions of *Macbeth*.
- 5(a). Does the visual and textual minimalism of Orson Welles's *Macbeth* compromise the complex nuances of Shakespeare's original? Discuss, taking into account Welles's directorial changes to the play.

OR

- 5(b). How does the youth and physical attractiveness of the lead pair in Roman Polanski's *Macbeth* affect the viewer's conception of criminality and guilt? Discuss, paying special attention to the painstaking visual realism of the play.

GROUP B

- 6(a). How does the sleepwalking scene (Act 5, scene 1) enact a play-within-a-play? Discuss also the handling of time within the scene.

OR

- 6(b). Demonstrate how the characterization of Lady Macbeth can be read in terms of early modern medical discourse about the female body.
- 7(a). Do you agree that the Witches in *Macbeth* reflect Shakespeare's misogyny? Discuss, with reference to any two 20th-century critics.

OR

- 7(b). Discuss with topical illustrations how James I of England's personal investment in witchcraft is recorded in *Macbeth*.
8. Is Malcolm a better Machiavellian than Macbeth? Discuss, with reference to Shakespeare's deployment of early modern political theory.
9. Discuss in detail any two translations/adaptations of *Macbeth* into Bengali, noting how they try to indigenize (or alienate) Shakespeare.