

**D.K.M.COLLEGE FOR WOMEN (AUTONOMOUS),VELLORE-1.**

**SHAKESPEARE**

**II M.A. ENGLISH**

**QUESTION BANK**

**UNIT -1: HAMLET**

**SECTION-A**

**6 MARKS**

- 1) Is Hamlet primarily a tragedy of revenge?
- 2) Discuss Hamlet's relationship with Gertrude.
- 3) How important is the general setting of Denmark to the overall play.
- 4) Of what significance is Ophelia to Hamlet? Was Hamlet truly in love with Ophelia?
- 5) Compare and contrast the characters of Hamlet and Horatio. How alike or dislike are they and why?
- 6) What could be the tragic flaw in Hamlet?
- 7) Why Hamlet is a tragic hero?
- 8) What is the theme of the play Hamlet?
- 9) What kind of a king is Claudius?
- 10) Explain the function of the Gravediggers at the beginning of Act V.
- 11) How does Horatio serve as a foil to Hamlet?
- 12) Consider Rosencrants and Guildensterns role in the play.
- 13) Write about the sub plot of the play Hamlet.
- 14) Describe The Mouse Trap Scene.

**SECTION-B**

**15 MARKS**

- 1) How do Hamlet's seven soliloquies reveal his character?
- 2) Conflict is essential to drama. Show that Hamlet presents both an outward and inward conflict.
- 3) The character Claudius has been compared to Macbeth. How similar are these two characters? In what ways are they similar?
- 4) Do you think Hamlet's madness is true, or is Hamlet merely play acting insanity? What evidence can you cite for either claim?

- 5) Analyze the use of descriptions and images in Hamlet. How does Shakespeare use descriptive language to enhance the Visual possibilities of a stage production? How does he use imagery to create a mood of tension, suspense, fear, and despair?
- 6) Analyze the use of comedy in Hamlet, paying particular attention to the gravediggers, Osric, and Polonius. Does comedy serve merely to relieve the tension of the tragedy?
- 7) Suicide is an important theme in Hamlet Discuss.
- 8) Discuss how the play treats the idea of suicide morally, religiously and aesthetically, with particular attention to Hamlet's two important statements about suicide.
- 9) What is Hamlet's conflict over the Ghost's existence? Why does he continue to doubt the "honesty" of the Ghost even after Claudius confesses his guilt?
- 10) Identify the three revenge plots in Hamlet, and explain why each is important to the development of the play.

**UNIT – II: HENRY IV PART-I**

**SECTION-A 6 MARKS**

- 1) Shakespeare's history play are traditionally named after the monarch in power during the era portrayed. Explain.
- 2) Discuss the development of the comedic subplot and how it relates to the overall play.
- 3) Analyze the complex character of prince Hal. What are his intentions?
- 4) Discuss the leadership abilities of Hotspur.
- 5) Considered Henry IV, Part I itself could be a morality play.
- 6) Father and Son Relationship in Shakespeare's Henry IV Part one –Explain.
- 7) Discuss a Game of winning the Crown is a theme in Shakespeare's Henries.
- 8) "Blood" is the defining characteristic in the play Henry IV Part I. Discuss.
- 9) Explain the Transformation of Hal.
- 10) Write about rebellion and its consequences in Henry IV part I.

**SECTION-B**

**15 MARKS**

- 1) Shakespeare's history plays are traditionally named after the monarch in power during the era portrayed.
- 2) Consider civil dissention in the play Henry Iv Part I. What metaphors are used to describe it?

- 3) Some argue that honor is the central theme of the play Henry IV Part I, Do you agree, and, if so, why.
- 4) Analyze the complex character of Prince Hal. What are his intentions?
- 5) Discuss the character King Henry IV. How does he relate to his son. Does he handle his political affairs effectively?
- 6) Falstaff is considered to be one of the greatest characters in English literature. Do you agree, and, if so, what makes him such a powerful creation?
- 7) The Inseparability of Acting and Ruling: An Analysis of Henry IV Part I. Explain.
- 8) Describe a way of Defining Gender in Shakespeare's History Plays.
- 9) Honor, Democracy, and Appearance: Hal's Journey to Kingship in Henry IV Part I.

**UNIT-III: TWELFTH NIGHT, THE TEMPEST 6 MARKS**

- 1) How is romantic love depicted in the play Twelfth Night? What points does Shakespeare seem to be making about romance?
- 2) Explain comic characters in Twelfth Night are different from one another?
- 3) Contrast Feste with Sir Toby and Sir Andrew.
- 4) What role does Malvolio serve in the play Twelfth Night?
- 5) Compare Orsino and Olivia, and discuss how their attitudes about strong emotions are similar or different.
- 6) Sketch a character of Clown in Twelfth Night.
- 7) Discuss the various mistakes in Twelfth Night and the motives behind them.
- 8) Write a significance of a letter in the play Twelfth Night.

**SECTION-B 15 MARKS**

- 1) Disguises and changes of clothing are central to the plot of Twelfth Night. Which characters in the play spend time in disguise, and how is this thematically important?
- 2) Discuss the role of Mistaken identity in Twelfth Night. Who is mistaken for whom, and what do these mix-ups signify?
- 3) Discuss the role of the explicitly comic characters – Sir Toby, Sir Andrew, Feste and Malvolio.
- 4) Explain comic characters in Twelfth Night are different from one another?

- 5) Does The Duke's opening speech show praise for Olivia in particular or for the experience of love in general?
- 6) Discuss the Masks in Twelfth Night. Which characters are self-deceived and which characters are not?
- 7) Discuss community as one of the themes of Twelfth Night.
- 8) Describe the title Twelfth Night, and explain its significance.

## **THE TEMPEST**

### **SECTION-A**

**6 MARKS**

- 1) What is the nature of Prospero and Miranda's relationship?
- 2) Discuss Ferdinand's character. What is the nature of his love for Miranda? Is he a likable character? What is the nature of his relationship to other characters?
- 3) Look at a few of the many passages in the play in which there is mention of noises, sound, or music.
- 4) How does Prospero's magic differ from that of the witch, Sycorax?
- 5) Prospero's need for revenge could easily have led to tragedy.
- 6) Write a short note on The Tempest Resources.
- 7) Themes in The Tempest: Reality, Thought, Imagination. Explain
- 8) Write a short note on Magic, Books, and the Supernatural in The Tempest
- 9) The Tempest: A Marriage Play?
- 10) Sketch a character of Miranda.
- 11) The Contrast Between Ariel and Caliban in Shakespeare's Tempest
- 12) The Relationship Between Miranda and Ferdinand
- 13) The Tempest: Stages of Plot Development
- 14) Blank Verse, Prose, and Diction in Shakespeare's Tempest
- 15) How to Pronounce the Names in The Tempest
- 16) The Tempest: Plot Summary

### **SECTION-B**

**15 MARKS**

- 1) Discuss moments where Miranda seems to be entirely dependent on her father and moments where she seems independent. How does Miranda's character change over the course of the play?

- 2) Focusing on Virtually every character in the play expresses some desire to be lord of the island. Discuss two or three of these characters. How does each envision the island's potential? How does each enCompare Gonzalo's ideas of the ideal society and commonwealth with those of Sir Thomas More in his Utopia. Why do you think that utopian dreams are destined to fail?
- 3) Traditionally, Shakespeare uses poetry for noble characters and prose for the lower class. Caliban, however, uses both poetry and prose. Discuss why he shifts between poetry and prose and under what circumstances. What does this reveal about this character?
- 4) Does Prospero really undergo any transformation at the end? What evidence can you provide to prove this statement?
- 5) Vision his own rule? One or two characters, discuss the role of noise in The Tempest.
- 6) Compare The Tempest to one of Shakespeare's tragedies, such as Hamlet. What elements of revenge are present in both plays? How are they different? In what way is Prospero's revenge neutralized by romance?
- 7) Forgiveness and Reconciliation is consider as a main theme in The Tempest. Discuss
- 8) Compare The Tempest and A Midsummer Night's Dream of Shakespeare plays.
- 9) Exploring the Nature of Shakespearean Comedy.
- 10) Describe the Elements of Comedy which was used in The Tempest?

#### **UNIT IV: EXTRACT FROM PREFACE TO SHAKESPEARE**

#### **SHAKESPEAREAN TRAGEDY.**

#### **SECTION-A**

#### **6MARKS**

1. According to Samuel Johnson, why is comedy is valued over tragedy in "Preface to Shakespeare"?
2. What is the theory of three unities?
3. What is the importance of Samuel Johnson's Preface to Shakespeare?
4. How does Johnson defend Shakespeare's Violation of the three unities in "Preface to Shakespeare"?
5. How might one analyseDr.Samuel Johnson's Preface to Shakespeare?

6. Write a short note on the three unities.
7. Given a brief summary of preface to Shakespeare.

**SECTION-B                      15 MARKS**

- 1) Why is Johnson's "Preface to Shakespeare" a landmark in Shakespearian criticism?
- 2) How does Johnson evaluate Shakespeare as an artist in his A Preface to Shakespeare?
- 3) Discuss the following ideas with reference to Johnson's Preface to Shakespeare:  
"The great
- 4) Discuss the merits and defects of Shakespeare as given in Johnson's "Preface to Shakespeare."
- 5) Dr. Johnson is a biased critic of Shakespeare. Do you agree? Please give reference from Johnson's
- 6) How does Shakespeare violate the three unities and how does?

**SHAKESPEAREAN TRAGEDY**

**SECTION-A                      6 MARKS**

- 1) Write a common themes of the Shakespearean Tragedies.
- 2) Give a summary on the Substance of Tragedy.
- 3) How does A.C.Bradley define Tragic Hero?
- 4) What does A.C. Bradley said about tragic flaw.
- 5) Write briefly of about the characteristics of Shakespearean Tragedy.

**SECTION-B                      15MARKS**

- 1) Discuss A.C.Bradley as a critic of Shakespearean Tragedy.
- 2) Definition of Tragic Hero According to A.C. Bradley's point of view. Explain.
- 3) Explain Hamlet's Melancholy to the view of A.C.Bradley.
- 4) Give a detail literary analysis of Shakespearean Tragedy by A.C.Bradley.
- 5) Write a note on A.C. Bradley's The Tragedy of Macbeth.
- 6) Madness and Insanity in Shakespeare's Hamlet –A.C.Bradley.Discuss.
- 7) Explain Shakespearean Tragedy's Lectures on Hamlet and Othello.

**UNIT-V                      SECTION-A                      6 MARKS**

- 1) What is distinctive about the Psychological approach to literary criticism?

- 2) How relevant are Psychoanalytic theories to a student of English Literature?
- 3) Write a brief note on Myth and Miracle of Wilson Knight.
- 4) Give an account on Post colonialism.
- 5) In what ways are Shakespeare's plays relevant to us even today?
- 6) Why is knowledge of history a useful tool for students interested in new ways of reading Shakespeare?
- 7) What is the Historical background against Shakespeare wrote his plays?
- 8) What is the New Historical approach concerned with?
- 9) What was Rome more important for Elizabethan than for modern audience?
- 10) What do we learn about the power of the state from a study of Julius Caesar?
- 11) What do most Feminist believe?
- 12) What are the three historical phases of women's literary development that Elaine Showalter has identified?
- 13) What are the two points central to feminist criticism?
- 14) In what way does Shakespeare occupy a significant position in feminist criticism?
- 15) Who is Jacques Lacan? Why are feminists interested in his work?
- 16) What view of women does Act I Scene III of the play Romeo and Juliet offer us?
- 17) How can a feminist approach help us to re-read Romeo and Juliet?
- 18) In what way are the plots of Romeo and Juliet and Much Ado About Nothing similar?
- 19) What difference does it make to read the play from a feminist perspective?
- 20) How does feminism open up new facets of a play?
- 21) What do most feminists want to do?
- 22) Where does the key to feminism's continuing usefulness lie?
- 23) What is Unique about Shakespeare's language?
- 24) How does feminist criticism help the students of literature?
- 25) What is the common misconception about the term Myth?
- 26) Write a brief note on Post- modern Approach to Shakespeare plays.

**SECTION-B 15 MARKS**

- 1) Analysis Myth and Miracle as an essay on the Mystic symbolism of Shakespeare.
- 2) Explain Psychoanalytic Interpretation of Shakespeare plays.
- 3) Discuss Psychoanalytic analysis of Shakespeare's Hamlet.
- 4) Describe Shakespeare and Post- colonialism.
- 5) Post-colonial interpretation on Othello. Explain.
- 6) How relevant, do you think, are Shakespeare's plays to us today?
- 7) What is the significance of Psychoanalytic theories to a student of English Literature?
- 8) How important is textual criticism in the study of the genesis and development of a piece of literature?
- 9) Why is Knowledge of history useful for students interested in new ways of reading Shakespeare?
- 10) In what way does Shakespeare occupy a significant position in feminist criticism?
- 11) Can a feminist approach help us to-read Romeo and Juliet?
- 12) What difference does it make to read a play from a feminist perspective? Give examples.
- 13) How does feminism open up new facets of a play?
- 14) Explain the post-colonial interpretation on Shakespeare plays.
- 15) Describe Post-modern Approach to Shakespeare's works.

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