

P.G. Semester-II Examination, 2023

ENGLISH

Course ID : 20354

Course Code : ENG204C

Course Title : Shakespeare II (Tragedy, History Play,
Shakespeare Criticism and Performance)

Time : 2 Hours

Full Marks : 40

The figures in the right-hand margin indicate marks.

*Candidates are required to give their answers in
their own words as far as practicable.*

Answer **all** the questions.

UNIT-I

1. Answer any **one** of the following questions :

1×12=12

- a) Do you think *King Lear* "investigates the nature of justice and the justice of nature"? Analyse critically.
- b) Nahum Tate's revision of Cordelia surviving and marrying Edgar remained the basis of every theatrical production of *King Lear* from 1681 till 1838. Critically comment on the revision.
- c) Explore the constructions of masculinity and femininity with reference to *Antony and Cleopatra* in Shakespeare's eponymous play.

[Turn over]

- d) Analyse the significance of betrayal as a motif in Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra*.

UNIT-II

2. Answer any **one** of the following questions:

1×12=12

- a) Discuss Dr. Johnson's contribution to Shakespeare criticism.
- b) Explore any two shifts in the meaning of marriage and family as reflected in the sixteenth century English portrait paintings according to Catherine Belsey. How according to Belsey do they relate to gender identities in the comedies of Shakespeare?
- c) While there was no possibility of a realistic whole stage background in the Elizabethan public theatre, Shakespeare knew how to use it with great effect and adequacy. — Discuss.
- d) "Polanski constructed a properly purposeful and grim world for his movie." — In light of the above statement, analyse some of the salient features of Polansky's adaptation of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*.

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UNIT-III

3. Answer any **four** of the following short questions :

4×4=16

- a) Briefly trace Shakespeare's sources for *King Lear*.
- b) "What shall Cordelia speak? Love, and be silent".
— Explain with reference to the context.
- c) Explore the hints of cross-dressing in Act I of Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra*.
- d) Comment on Coleridge's view on the Porter Scene in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*.
- e) Briefly analyse any *one* liberal humanist myth that John Drakakis seeks to dismantle in the introduction to *Alternative Shakespeares*.
- f) What was the theatrical purpose for the use of torches and tapers and candles on the Elizabethan stage?
- g) The opening scene of Kozintsev's *King Lear* has been considered a masterpiece of adaptation. Comment critically.
- h) Write a short note on how Polansky portrayed the murder of Duncan.