

2017

M.A.

Part-I Examination

ENGLISH

PAPER—I

Full Marks : 100

Time : 4 Hours

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

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

Answer all questions.

1. (a) Assess the contribution of either S.T. Coleridge or T.S. Eliot to Shakespeare criticism. 16

Or

- (b) Write a note on the boy-actors of Elizabethan theatre.

Or

- (c) Write an essay on the use of asides and soliloquies in Elizabethan drama.

2. Answer any *two* of the following : 2×16

(a) (i) Examine the note of Cordelia in *King Lear*.

Or

(ii) Discuss Shakespeare's art of integrating two plots in *King Lear*.

(b) Would you like to consider *Measure for Measure* as a dark comedy? Discuss.

Or

Write a note on the function of the minor characters in *Measure for Measure*.

(c) (i) Show that *The Tempest* is Shakespeare's final treatment of the theme of reconciliation.

(ii) Would you regard *The Tempest* as a Romance? Discuss.

3. Answer any *one* of the following : 16

(a) Discuss Shakespeare's portrayal of the character of Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

(b) Would you regard *Henry IV* (Pts I & II) as a play about the education of a prince? Give reasons.

(c) Discuss Hamlet's treatment of Ophelia.

4. Examine Shakespeare's handling of theme of love and time in the sonnets you have read. 16

Or

Write a note on Shakespeare's contribution to the Elizabethan sonnet-tradition. Substantiate your answer with reference to the sonnets you have read.

5. Explain with reference to the context any *one* of the following : 10

(a) Hear, Nature, hear, dear goddess, hear : Suspend thy purpose if thou didst intend

To make this creature fruitful.

(b) Our nature's do pursue,

Like rats that ravin down their proper bane,

A thirsty evil; and when we drink we die.

(c) A devil, a born devil, on whose nature

Nurture can never stick; on whom may pains

Humanely taken, all, all lost, quite lost.

(d) All this the world well knows, yet none knows well,
To shun the heaven that leads men to this hell.

6. Comment on any *two* of the following : 2×5

(a) The role of Oswald in *King Lear*.

(b) The bed-trick in *Measure for Measure*.

(c) The temptation of Sebastian in *The Tempest*.

(d) 'And art made tongue-tied by authority'.

