

BOWEN UNIVERSITY, IWO, OSUN STATE  
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL STUDIES  
ENGLISH PROGRAMME  
2019/2020 FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

COURSE CODE: ENG 416

TIME ALLOWED: 3 Hours

COURSE TITLE: STUDIES IN SHAKESPEARE

DATE: 03-2-2020

**INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER QUESTION ONE AND ANY OTHER TWO QUESTIONS, ONE FROM EACH SECTION. DO NOT USE THE SAME MATERIAL TWICE.**

**SECTION A**

1. Choose ONE of the following speeches <sup>from</sup> ~~lettered~~ (a)-(e) and identify the speaker(s), the context and character(s) referred to, as well as the implications of the speech for the characters and the plot of the play. (30 marks)
  - (a) What is love? 'Tis not hereafter.  
Present mirth hath present laughter;  
What's to come is still unsure  
In delay there lies no plenty;  
Then come kiss me, sweet and twenty,  
Youth's stuff will not endure.
  - (b) That hand shall burn in never-quenching fire  
That staggers thus my person. Exton, thy fierce hand  
Hath with the King's blood stained the King's own land.  
Mount, mount, my soul, thy seat is up on high,  
Whilst my gross flesh sinks downward, here to die.
  - (c) Let the devil and his dam haunt you. What did you  
mean by that same handkerchief you give me even now? I was  
a fine fool to take it. I must take out the whole work – a likely  
piece of work, that you should find it in your chamber and know  
not who left it there. This is some minx's token, and I  
must take out the work.
  - (d) .....  
As stars with trains of fire and dews of blood,  
Disasters in sun; and the moist star  
Upon whose influence Neptune Empire stands  
Was sick almost to doomsday with eclipse.  
And even the like precurse of fierce events,

As harbingers preceding still the fates  
 And prologue to the omen coming on,  
 Have heaven and earth together demonstrated  
 Onto our climates and our countrymen.

- (e) By inch-meal a disease! His spirit hears me  
 And yet I needs must curse. But they'll nor pinch,  
 Fright me with urchin-shows, pitch me i' th'mire  
 Nor lead me, like a firebrand in the dark  
 Out of my way, unless he bid 'em; but  
 For every trifle are they set upon me,...

#### SECTION B

2. **Either: (a)** Using at least three sonnets, discuss three shades of love in Shakespeare's poetry. (20 marks)  
**Or: (b)** Discuss the way(s) that Shakespeare's *Richard II* interrogates traditional assumptions in an age of enlightenment and learning. (20 marks)
3. Is Othello a Moor or a Venetian? Provide a logical argument showing clearly familiarity with the text. (20 marks)

#### SECTION C

4. "Beyond fantasy and unrealism, there are very serious social issues explored by Shakespeare in *The Tempest*." Discuss. (20 marks)
5. Critically examine Shakespeare's *Hamlet* as a tragic play. Endeavour to show familiarity with text. (20 marks)
6. Discuss *Twelfth Night* as a satiric play, paying attention to the major themes of the play. (20 marks)

  
 23/01/2020