

59

BOWEN UNIVERSITY, IWO, OSUN STATE
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL STUDIES
ENGLISH PROGRAMME

2020/2021 FIRST SEMESTER ONLINE EXAMINATION

COURSE CODE: ENG 416

TIME ALLOWED: 3 Hours

COURSE TITLE: STUDIES IN SHAKESPEARE

DATE: March, 2021

INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS ONLY, ONE FROM EACH SECTION.

SECTION A

1. Choose **ONE** of the following speeches 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) Marry, God forbid!

Worst in this royal presence may I speak,
Yet best beseeming me to speak the truth.
Would God that any in this noble presence
Were enough noble to be upright judge
Of noble Richard. Then true noblesse would
Learn him forbearance from so foul a wrong.
What subject can give sentence on his king?
And who sits here that is not Richard's subject...
And shall the figure of God's majesty,
His captain, steward, deputy elect,
Anointed, crowned, planted many years,
Be judged by subject and inferior breath,
And he himself not present?

(b) Thou hast not half that power to do me harm
As I have to be hurt. O gull, O dolt,
As ignorant as dirt! Thou hast done a deed –
I care not for thy sword, I'll make thee known
Though I lost twenty lives. Help, help, ho! Help!
The Moor hath...Murder, murder!

- (c) My determinate voyage is mere extra vagancy.
 But I perceive in you so excellent a touch of modesty
 that you will not extort from me what I am willing to keep in;
 therefore it changes me in manners the rather to express myself.
 You must know of me then, Antonio, my name is Sabastian,
 which I call'd Roderigo. My father was that Sabastian of Messaline,
 whom I know you have heard of. He left behind him myself and my sister,
 both born in an hour. If the heaven had been pleas'd, would we had so ended!
 But you, sir, alter'd that; for some hour before you took me from the breach
 of the sea was my sister drow'd.

- (d) ...when thou shalt have over look'd this,
 Give these fellows some means to the king;
 They have letters for him.
 Ere we were two days old at sea,
 a pirate of very warlike appointment gave us a chase.
 Finding ourselves too slow a sail, we put on a compild valour.
 In the grapple I boarded them.
 On the instant they got clear of our ship so I alone became their prisoner.
 They have dealt with me like thieves of mercy but they knew what to they did:
 I am to do a good turn for them.
 Let the king have the letter I have sent,
 and repair thou to me with as much haste as thou wouldst fly death.
 I have words to speak in to your ear will make thee dumb,
 yet are they much too light fro the bore of the matter.
 These good fellows will bring thee where I am.
 Rosencrantz and Guildenstern hold their course for England;
 Of them I have much to tell thee.

- (e) you do look, my son, in a mov'd sort, as if you were dismay'd.
 Be cheerful, sir our Revels now are ended.
 These our actors, As I foretold you, were all spirits, and Are melted into thin air;
 And like the baseless fabric of this vision,
 The cloud-capp'd tower, the gorgeous palaces,
 The solemn templates, the great globe itself,
 Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve
 And, like this insubstantial pageant faded,
 Leave not a rack behind. We are such stuff
 As dreams are made on, and our little life
 Is rounded with a sleep – Sir, I am tired vexed, -
 Bear with my weakness – my old brain is troubled.
 Be not disturb with my infirmity,
 If you be pleas'd, retire into my cell
 And there repose. A turn or two I'll walk,
 To still my beating mind.

SECTION B

- 2. ~~Discuss~~ ^{Critically examine} the major issues at stake in Shakespeare's *Othello*. (20 marks)
- 3. Discuss the way(s) that Shakespeare's *Richard II* interrogates traditional assumptions in an age of enlightenment and learning. (20 marks)
- 4. ~~Discuss~~ ^{Do a critique of} Shakespeare's handling of the concept of time and love in any two sonnets of your choice. (20 marks)

SECTION C

- 5. Clearly ~~examine~~ ^{explain} Shakespeare's attempt to alter the established systems of class and authority with the production of *Twelfth Night*. (20 marks)
- 6. "Hamlet is a total reflection of futility of life". Critically examine this assumption. (20 marks)
- 7. Justify the claim that *The Tempest* centres on colonialism and imperialism. (20 marks)