

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 from (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)

Either: (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. Extol, 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 precursor 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)