

B.A. (Honours) Examination 2016
Semester – III
English
Course - H-5 (Core)
(16th and 17th Century Literature)
(For Regular and Back Candidates)

Time: Three Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer **Question no. 1** and **any three** from the rest.

1. a) Write a brief account of the playing conventions in Renaissance theatre with special reference to 'cross dressing'. Give references from at least three plays to substantiate your essay. 10
 - Or**
 - b) Write short notes on **any two** of the following: 5×2=10
The Faerie Queene, The Alchemist, Utopia, John Webster, Philip Sidney, Thomas Nashe.
 2. a) Elizabethan sonneteers struggled to strike a balance between convention and originality. Do you agree? Comment critically.
 - Or**
 - b) Shakespeare's sonnets grapple with the problem of mutability. Comment critically with reference to sonnets you have read.
 3. a) Shakespeare's representation of the 'Weird Sisters' in *Macbeth* is full of ambiguity. Do you agree? Substantiate.
 - Or**
 - b) Shakespeare's *Macbeth* problematises the question of monarchy. Analyse.
 4. a) In *The Merchant of Venice*, Belmont and Venice are not just locations but spaces of contrasting values in society. Do you agree? Comment critically.
 - Or**
 - b) Comment on the fairy tale elements in *The Merchant of Venice*.
 - Or**
 - c) Do you think Jacques disrupts the comic spirit in *As You Like It*? Discuss.
 5. Comment critically on the 'prescriptive' elements in Bacon's essays.
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