



# SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI COLLEGE

(Affiliated to Bharathidasan University)  
Nationally Accredited at 'A' Grade (4<sup>th</sup> Cycle) by NAAC | An ISO 9001 : 2015 Certified Institution  
Tiruchirappalli - 620 002

## Department of English

### Question Bank

**Semester: V**

**Sub Title: Shakespeare**

**Sub Code: 22ACCEN9**

### Section A

#### Fill in the Blanks

- 1 The statue of Hermione comes to life in \_\_\_\_.
- 2 Leontes wrongly suspects his wife of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 The setting of The Winter's Tale shifts between Sicilia and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 "Exit, pursued by a \_\_\_\_" is a famous stage direction from The Winter's Tale.
- 5 In Julius Caesar, the character who delivers the line "Et tu, Brute?" is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 The soothsayer warns Caesar to beware the \_\_\_\_ of March.
- 7 The funeral oration beginning "Friends, Romans, countrymen..." is delivered by \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8 Brutus kills himself by falling on his \_\_\_\_\_.
- 9 The witches in Macbeth greet him with three titles: \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 10 Lady Macbeth famously says, "Out, damned \_\_\_\_!" while sleepwalking.
- 11 The ghost of \_\_\_\_ haunts Macbeth during the banquet.
- 12 Macbeth was written during the reign of King \_\_\_\_\_.
- 13 Shylock is a \_\_\_\_ by profession in The Merchant of Venice.
- 14 The condition of the bond was a pound of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 15 Portia disguises herself as a \_\_\_\_ to save Antonio.
- 16 The famous speech "The quality of mercy is not strain'd..." is spoken by \_\_\_\_\_.
- 17 In Shakespeare's time, only \_\_\_\_ were allowed to perform on stage.

- 18 The audience in the Globe Theatre stood in the \_\_\_\_.
- 19 Fools in Shakespeare often speak the truth through \_\_\_\_.
- 20 The supernatural element in Macbeth is mainly represented by the \_\_\_\_.
- 21 The ghost in Hamlet is that of his \_\_\_\_.
- 22 A \_\_\_\_ is a speech spoken by a character alone on stage to reveal thoughts.
- 23 Shakespearean tragedies often end with the restoration of \_\_\_\_.
- 24 According to A.C. Bradley, a Shakespearean tragic hero suffers from a fatal \_\_\_\_.
- 25 Modern adaptations of Macbeth often portray the witches as symbols of \_\_\_\_ influence.

## SECTION B

### **Short answer questions (2 marks)**

1. What is the role of the Oracle of Delphi in The Winter's Tale?
2. How does Antony use rhetoric in his funeral speech in Julius Caesar?
3. What is Lady Macbeth's role in Duncan's murder?
4. What is the significance of the three caskets in The Merchant of Venice?
5. Who are clowns and fools in Shakespearean drama?
6. Why does Leontes suspect Hermione of infidelity?
7. What does Caesar mean by "Et tu, Brute"?
8. What is the significance of Banquo's ghost?
9. Describe the friendship between Antonio and Bassanio.
10. What is a Shakespearean soliloquy? Give an example.
11. Who is Autolycus? What is his function in The Winter's Tale?
12. Explain the significance of Calpurnia's dream.
13. Explain the symbolism of blood in Macbeth.
14. How does Portia outwit Shylock in the trial scene?
15. What is the purpose of comic relief in Shakespeare's tragedies?
16. What does the statue scene symbolize at the end of The Winter's Tale?
17. What was the role of Brutus in Caesar's assassination?
18. How does Macbeth's ambition lead to his downfall?
19. Why is Bassanio interested in marrying Portia?
20. How are women portrayed in Shakespeare's plays?

21. Define the term “problem play” and explain if *The Winter’s Tale* fits this label.
22. Why is *Julius Caesar* called a Roman tragedy?
23. What is the role of the witches in *Macbeth*?
24. What punishment does Shylock face at the end?
25. Describe the nature of Elizabethan theatre audiences.

## Section C

### **Paragraph questions (5 marks)**

- 1     Discuss the transformation of Leontes’ character in *The Winter’s Tale*.
- 2     What is the significance of the pastoral setting in *The Winter’s Tale*?
- 3     How does *The Winter’s Tale* fit into the genre of “problem plays” or romances?
- 4     Evaluate the role of women in *The Winter’s Tale* with reference to Hermione and Paulina.
- 5     Examine the political implications of Brutus’ role in *Julius Caesar*.
- 6     How is the theme of friendship portrayed in *Julius Caesar*?
- 7     What makes Antony’s funeral oration powerful and persuasive?
- 8     Discuss the relevance of omens and dreams in *Julius Caesar*.
- 9     Comment on the use of imagery in *Macbeth* (any two instances).
- 10    Analyse the development of Macbeth’s ambition in the play.
- 11    What is the role of Lady Macbeth in shaping the tragedy?
- 12    Discuss the significance of hallucinations in *Macbeth*.
- 13    Examine the idea of justice and mercy in *The Merchant of Venice*.
- 14    Write a note on the role of disguise and deception in *The Merchant of Venice*.
- 15    How does Shakespeare use the casket test as a character-revealing device?
- 16    Discuss Shylock as a tragic figure or villain.
- 17    What was the structure and audience dynamic of the Globe Theatre?
- 18    What dramatic purpose do fools and clowns serve in Shakespeare’s plays?
- 19    How do soliloquies enhance character development in Shakespeare’s tragedies?
- 20    Write a short note on the representation of women in any two Shakespearean plays.

## Section D

### **Essay Questions (10 Marks)**

1. Critically analyse Leontes' transformation from a jealous tyrant to a repentant husband in *The Winter's Tale*.
2. Discuss the role of time and fate in *The Winter's Tale* with reference to structure and theme.
3. Explore the tragic and political dimensions of Brutus' character in *Julius Caesar*.
4. Evaluate the role of rhetoric and manipulation in *Julius Caesar*, focusing on Antony's funeral speech.
5. How does Shakespeare depict the psychological downfall of Macbeth?
6. Analyse Lady Macbeth's complexity as a character and her influence on the plot.
7. Analyse the play's treatment of anti-Semitism and whether Shylock is more victim than villain.
8. How does Shakespeare use disguise and gender inversion in *The Merchant of Venice*?
9. Write an essay on
  - a) The role of the Fool in Shakespeare's tragedies with examples.
  - b) the structure and socio-cultural significance of the Elizabethan theatre.
10. Discuss
  - a) The use of soliloquies in Shakespeare's tragedies as a tool of character revelation.
  - b) Shakespeare's portrayal of women using examples from at least two plays.

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