



Rewarding Learning

ADVANCED
General Certificate of Education
2023

English Literature

Assessment Unit A2 1

assessing

Shakespearean Genres

MV18

[AEL11]

WEDNESDAY 31 MAY, MORNING

Time

1 hour 30 minutes, plus your additional time allowance.

Instructions to Candidates

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number on the Answer Booklet provided.

Answer the question on your chosen play.

The extracts referred to in the questions can be found in the Resource Booklet provided.

This unit is closed book.

Information for Candidates

The total mark for this paper is 50.

Quality of written communication will be assessed in all responses.

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Shakespearean Genres

You will be marked on your ability to:

- articulate informed, personal and creative responses to literary texts, using associated concepts and terminology, and coherent, accurate written expression (AO1)
- analyse ways in which meanings are shaped in literary texts (AO2)
- demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written and received (AO3)
- explore connections across and within literary texts (AO4)
- explore literary texts informed by different interpretations (AO5)

Answer the question on your chosen Shakespeare text.

1 Othello

Desdemona's death is the result of Othello's sexual jealousy.

By referring closely to extract **1**, printed in the accompanying Resource Booklet and to other appropriately selected parts of the text, **show to what extent** you would agree with the view expressed above.

Your **argument** should include relevant comments on Shakespeare's dramatic methods, and relevant external contextual information on the nature of Shakespearean Tragedy.

N.B. Equal marks are available for your treatment of the given extract and other relevant parts of the text.

[50 marks]

2 King Lear

Lear is entirely responsible for Cordelia's fate.

By referring closely to extract **2**, printed in the accompanying Resource Booklet and to other appropriately selected parts of the text, **show to what extent** you would agree with the view expressed above.

Your **argument** should include relevant comments on Shakespeare's dramatic methods, and relevant external contextual information on the nature of Shakespearean Tragedy.

N.B. Equal marks are available for your treatment of the given extract and other relevant parts of the text.

[50 marks]

3 The Taming of the Shrew

It is impossible to justify Petruccio's treatment of Katherine.

By referring closely to extract **3**, printed in the accompanying Resource Booklet and to other appropriately selected parts of the text, **show to what extent** you would agree with the view expressed above.

Your **argument** should include relevant comments on Shakespeare's dramatic methods, and relevant external contextual information on the nature of Shakespearean Comedy.

N.B. Equal marks are available for your treatment of the given extract and other relevant parts of the text.

[50 marks]

4 As You Like It

Rosalind is quick-witted and capable throughout the play.

By referring closely to extract **4**, printed in the accompanying Resource Booklet and to other appropriately selected parts of the text, **show to what extent** you would agree with the view expressed above.

Your **argument** should include relevant comments on Shakespeare's dramatic methods, and relevant external contextual information on the nature of Shakespearean Comedy.

N.B. Equal marks are available for your treatment of the given extract and other relevant parts of the text.

[50 marks]

5 Measure for Measure

Claudio is an immoral man.

By referring closely to extract **5**, printed in the accompanying Resource Booklet and to other appropriately selected parts of the text, **show to what extent** you would agree with the view expressed above.

Your **argument** should include relevant comments on Shakespeare's dramatic methods, and relevant external contextual information on the nature of Shakespeare's Problem Plays.

N.B. Equal marks are available for your treatment of the given extract and other relevant parts of the text.

[50 marks]

6 The Winter's Tale

Bohemia is a world of perfection.

By referring closely to extract **6**, printed in the accompanying Resource Booklet and to other appropriately selected parts of the text, **show to what extent** you would agree with the view expressed above.

Your **argument** should include relevant comments on Shakespeare's dramatic methods, and relevant external contextual information on the nature of Shakespeare's Last Plays.

N.B. Equal marks are available for your treatment of the given extract and other relevant parts of the text.
[50 marks]

This is the end of the question paper

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**Resource
Booklet**

Page Index to Extracts

Extract Number	Page Number
1 Othello	4
2 King Lear	7
3 The Taming of the Shrew	10
4 As You Like It	13
5 Measure for Measure	16
6 The Winter's Tale	20

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Extract 1: Othello

(For use with Question 1)

Othello

By heaven, I'll know thy thoughts.

Iago

You cannot, if my heart were in your hand;
Nor shall not, whilst 'tis in my custody.

Othello

Ha!

Iago

O, beware, my lord, of jealousy;
It is the green-eyed monster which doth mock
The meat it feeds on; that cuckold lives in bliss
Who, certain of his fate, loves not his wronger;
But, O, what damned minutes tells he o'er
Who dotes, yet doubts, suspects, yet strongly loves!

Othello

O misery!

Iago

Poor and content is rich, and rich enough,
But riches fineless is as poor as winter
To him that ever fears he shall be poor.
Good heaven, the souls of all my tribe defend
From jealousy!

Othello

Why, why is this?

Think'st thou I'd make a life of jealousy,
To follow still the changes of the moon
With fresh suspicions? No; to be once in doubt
Is once to be resolved: exchange me for a goat,
When I shall turn the business of my soul
To such exsufflicate and blown surmises,
Matching thy inference. 'Tis not to make me jealous
To say my wife is fair, feeds well, loves company,
Is free of speech, sings, plays and dances well;
Where virtue is, these are more virtuous:
Nor from mine own weak merits will I draw
The smallest fear or doubt of her revolt;
For she had eyes, and chose me. No, Iago;
I'll see before I doubt; when I doubt, prove;
And on the proof, there is no more but this, –
Away at once with love or jealousy!

Iago

I am glad of it; for now I shall have reason
To show the love and duty that I bear you
With franker spirit: therefore, as I am bound,
Receive it from me. I speak not yet of proof.
Look to your wife; observe her well with Cassio;
Wear your eye thus, not jealous nor secure:
I would not have your free and noble nature
Out of self-bounty be abused; look to't:
I know our country disposition well;
In Venice they do let heaven see the pranks
They dare not show their husbands; their best conscience
Is not to leave't undone, but keep't unknown.

Othello

Dost thou say so?

Iago

She did deceive her father, marrying you;
And when she seem'd to shake and fear your looks,
She loved them most.

Othello

And so she did.

Iago

Why, go to then;
She that, so young, could give out such a seeming,
To seal her father's eyes up close as oak –
He thought 'twas witchcraft – but I am much to blame;
I humbly do beseech you of your pardon
For too much loving you.

Othello

I am bound to thee for ever.

(Act 3, Scene 3)

Extract 2: King Lear

(For use with Question 2)

Lear

... Now, our joy,
Although the last, not least; to whose young love
The vines of France and milk of Burgundy
Strive to be interest'd; what can you say to draw
A third more opulent than your sisters? Speak.

Cordelia

Nothing, my lord.

Lear

Nothing?

Cordelia

Nothing.

Lear

Nothing will come of nothing. Speak again.

Cordelia

Unhappy that I am, I cannot heave
My heart into my mouth. I love your Majesty
According to my bond; no more nor less.

Lear

How, how, Cordelia? Mend your speech a little,
Lest you may mar your fortunes.

Cordelia

Good my lord,
You have begot me, bred me, lov'd me; I
Return those duties back as are right fit,
Obey you, love you, and most honour you.
Why have my sisters husbands, if they say
They love you all? Haply, when I shall wed,
That lord whose hand must take my plight shall carry
Half my love with him, half my care and duty.
Sure I shall never marry like my sisters,
To love my father all.

Lear

But goes thy heart with this?

Cordelia

Ay, good my lord.

Lear

So young, and so untender?

Cordelia

So young, my lord, and true.

Lear

Let it be so! thy truth then be thy dower!
For, by the sacred radiance of the sun,
The mysteries of Hecate and the night;
By all the operation of the orbs
From whom we do exist and cease to be,
Here I disclaim all my paternal care,
Propinquity and property of blood,
And as a stranger to my heart and me
Hold thee from this for ever. The barbarous Scythian,

Or he that makes his generation messes
To gorge his appetite, shall to my bosom
Be as well neighbour'd, pitied, and reliev'd,
As thou my sometime daughter.

(Act 1, Scene 1)

Extract 3: The Taming of the Shrew

(For use with Question 3)

Katherine

I pray you, husband, be not so disquiet:
The meat was well, if you were so contented.

Petruccio

I tell thee, Kate, 'twas burnt and dried away;
And I expressly am forbid to touch it,
For it engenders choler, planteth anger;
And better 'twere that both of us did fast,
Since, of ourselves, ourselves are choleric,
Than feed it with such over-roasted flesh.
Be patient; tomorrow 't shall be mended,
And, for this night, we'll fast for company:
Come, I will bring thee to thy bridal chamber.

(Exeunt)

(Re-enter Servants severally)

Nathaniel

Peter, didst ever see the like?

Peter

He kills her in her own humour.

(Re-enter Curtis)

Grumio

Where is he?

Curtis

In her chamber, making a sermon of continency to her;
And rails, and swears, and rates, that she, poor soul,
Knows not which way to stand, to look, to speak,
And sits as one new-risen from a dream.
Away, away! for he is coming hither.

(Exeunt)

(Re-enter Petruccio)

Petruccio

Thus have I politicly begun my reign,
And 'tis my hope to end successfully.
My falcon now is sharp and passing empty;
And till she stoop she must not be full-gorged,
For then she never looks upon her lure.
Another way I have to man my haggard,
To make her come and know her keeper's call,
That is, to watch her, as we watch these kites
That bate and beat and will not be obedient.
She eat no meat to-day, nor none shall eat;
Last night she slept not, nor to-night she shall not;
As with the meat, some undeserved fault
I'll find about the making of the bed;
And here I'll fling the pillow, there the bolster,
This way the coverlet, another way the sheets:
Ay, and amid this hurly I intend
That all is done in reverend care of her;
And in conclusion she shall watch all night:
And if she chance to nod, I'll rail and brawl,
And with the clamour keep her still awake.
This is a way to kill a wife with kindness;
And thus I'll curb her mad and headstrong humour.

He that knows better how to tame a shrew,
Now let him speak: 'tis charity to show.

(Act 4, Scene 1)

Extract 4: As You Like It

(For use with Question 4)

(Enter Duke Frederick with Lords)

Duke Frederick

Mistress, despatch you with your safest haste,
And get you from our court.

Rosalind

Me, uncle?

Duke Frederick

You, cousin

Within these ten days if that thou be'st found
So near our public court as twenty miles,
Thou diest for it.

Rosalind

I do beseech your grace,
Let me the knowledge of my fault bear with me:
If with myself I hold intelligence
Or have acquaintance with mine own desires,
If that I do not dream or be not frantic, –
As I do trust I am not – then, dear uncle,
Never so much as in a thought unborn
Did I offend your highness.

Duke Frederick

Thus do all traitors:
If their purgation did consist in words,
They are as innocent as grace itself:
Let it suffice thee that I trust thee not.

Rosalind

Yet your mistrust cannot make me a traitor:
Tell me whereon the likelihood depends.

Duke Frederick

Thou art thy father's daughter; there's enough.

Rosalind

So was I when your highness took his dukedom;
So was I when your highness banish'd him:
Treason is not inherited, my lord;
Or, if we did derive it from our friends,
What's that to me? my father was no traitor:
Then, good my liege, mistake me not so much
To think my poverty is treacherous.

Celia

Dear sovereign, hear me speak.

Duke Frederick

Ay, Celia; we stay'd her for your sake,
Else had she with her father ranged along.

Celia

I did not then entreat to have her stay;
It was your pleasure, and your own remorse:
I was too young that time to value her;
But now I know her: if she be a traitor,
Why, so am I; we still have slept together,
Rose at an instant, learn'd, play'd, eat together,
And wheresoe'er we went, like Juno's swans,
Still we went coupled and inseparable.

Duke Frederick

She is too subtle for thee; and her smoothness,
Her very silence and her patience
Speak to the people, and they pity her.
Thou art a fool: she robs thee of thy name,
And thou wilt show more bright and seem more virtuous
When she is gone. Then open not thy lips:
Firm and irrevocable is my doom
Which I have passed upon her; she is banish'd.

Celia

Pronounce that sentence then on me, my liege;
I cannot live out of her company.

Duke Frederick

You are a fool. You, niece, provide yourself:
If you outstay the time, upon mine honour,
And in the greatness of my word, you die.

(Exeunt Duke Frederick and Lords)

(Act 1, Scene 3)

Extract 5: Measure for Measure

(For use with Question 5)

Claudio

The precise Angelo!

Isabella

O, 'tis the cunning livery of hell,
The damned'st body to invest and cover
In precise guards! Dost thou think, Claudio,
If I would yield him my virginity,
Thou mightst be freed?

Claudio

O heavens, it cannot be!

Isabella

Yes, he would give't thee, from this rank offence,
So to offend him still. This night's the time
That I should do what I abhor to name,
Or else thou diest to-morrow.

Claudio

Thou shalt not do't.

Isabella

O, were it but my life,
I'd throw it down for your deliverance
As frankly as a pin.

Claudio

Thanks, dear Isabel.

Isabella

Be ready, Claudio, for your death tomorrow.

Claudio

Yes. – Has he affections in him,
That thus can make him bite the law by th'nose,
When he would force it? – Sure, it is no sin;
Or of the deadly seven, it is the least.

Isabella

Which is the least?

Claudio

If it were damnable, he being so wise,
Why would he for the momentary trick
Be perdurably fined? – O Isabel!

Isabella

What says my brother?

Claudio

Death is a fearful thing.

Isabella

And shamed life a hateful.

Claudio

Ay, but to die, and go we know not where;
To lie in cold obstruction and to rot;
This sensible warm motion to become
A kneaded clod; and the delighted spirit
To bathe in fiery floods, or to reside
In thrilling region of thick-ribbed ice;
To be imprison'd in the viewless winds,

And blown with restless violence round about
The pendent world: or to be worse than worst
Of those that lawless and incertain thought
Imagine howling; 'tis too horrible!
The weariest and most loathed worldly life
That age, ache, penury and imprisonment
Can lay on nature is a paradise
To what we fear of death.

Isabella

Alas, alas!

Claudio

Sweet sister, let me live.
What sin you do to save a brother's life,
Nature dispenses with the deed so far
That it becomes a virtue.

Isabella

O you beast!
O faithless coward! O dishonest wretch!
Wilt thou be made a man out of my vice?
Is't not a kind of incest, to take life
From thine own sister's shame? What should I think?
Heaven shield my mother play'd my father fair;
For such a warped slip of wilderness
Ne'er issued from his blood. Take my defiance:
Die, perish! Might but my bending down
Reprieve thee from thy fate, it should proceed.
I'll pray a thousand prayers for thy death,
No word to save thee.

Claudio

Nay, hear me, Isabel.

Isabella

O, fie, fie, fie!

Thy sin's not accidental, but a trade;

Mercy to thee would prove itself a bawd:

'Tis best that thou diest quickly.

(Going)

Claudio

O hear me, Isabella.

(Act 3, Scene 1)

Extract 6: The Winter's Tale

(For use with Question 6)

Perdita

I'll not put
The dibble in earth to set one slip of them;
No more than, were I painted, I would wish
This youth should say 'twere well, and only therefore
Desire to breed by me. Here's flowers for you:
Hot lavender, mints, savory, marjoram;
The marigold, that goes to bed wi' the sun
And with him rises weeping: these are flowers
Of middle summer, and I think they are given
To men of middle age. You're very welcome.

Camillo

I should leave grazing, were I of your flock,
And only live by gazing.

Perdita

Out, alas!
You'd be so lean that blasts of January
Would blow you through and through. **(To Florizel)**
Now, my fair'st friend,
I would I had some flowers o'th'spring, that might
Become your time of day – **(to the Shepherdesses)** and
yours, and yours,
That wear upon your virgin branches yet
Your maidenheads growing. O Proserpina,
For the flowers now that, frighted, thou let'st fall
From Dis's wagon! Daffodils,
That come before the swallow dares, and take
The winds of March with beauty; violets, dim,

But sweeter than the lids of Juno's eyes
Or Cytherea's breath; pale primroses,
That die unmarried ere they can behold
Bright Phoebus in his strength – a malady
Most incident to maids; bold oxlips and
The crown imperial; lilies of all kinds,
The flower-de-luce being one: O, these I lack,
To make you garlands of, and my sweet friend
To strew him o'er and o'er!

Florizel

What, like a corse?

Perdita

No, like a bank for Love to lie and play on;
Not like a corse; or if, not to be buried,
But quick and in mine arms. Come, take your flowers.
Methinks I play as I have seen them do
In Whitsun pastorals: sure this robe of mine
Does change my disposition.

Florizel

What you do
Still betters what is done. When you speak, sweet.
I'd have you do it ever; when you sing,
I'd have you buy and sell so, so give alms,
Pray so; and, for the ord'ring your affairs,
To sing them too; when you do dance, I wish you
A wave o'th'sea, that you might ever do
Nothing but that – move still, still so,
And own no other function. Each your doing,
So singular in each particular,
Crowns what you are doing in the present deeds,
That all your acts are queens.

Perdita

O Doricles,
Your praises are too large. But that your youth
And the true blood which peeps fairly through't,
Do plainly give you out an unstained shepherd,
With wisdom I might fear, my Doricles,
You wooed me the false way.

Florizel

I think you have
As little skill to fear as I have purpose
To put you to't. But come; our dance, I pray.
Your hand, my Perdita: so turtles pair,
That never mean to part.

(Act 4, Scene 4)

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