

Anekant Education Society's
TULJARAM CHATURCHAND COLLEGE, BARAMATI
Department of English
Question Bank
Class: M.A. I Paper I: English Literature from 1550 to 1798 [ENG 4101]

Q. 1) Answer the following questions in not more than 30-40 words. (2 marks)

1. What was Brabantio's reaction to Othello's marriage to Desdemona?
2. What was Roderigo's complaint, and what was Iago's reply to it?
3. What was the purpose of Iago's plan?
4. Why did Iago want Cassio to drink more wine?
5. Why did Othello strip Cassio of his rank?
6. Why did Iago want Cassio to ask Desdemona for help in restoring Othello's faith in Cassio?
7. Why didn't Iago simply tell Othello right away that Desdemona and Cassio were having an affair?
8. What thing did Emilia find and give to Iago? What did Iago intend to do with it?
9. What was Iago's reply when Othello demanded proof of his wife's disloyalty?
10. What was Emilia's relationship with Iago and Desdemona?
11. How did Iago trick Othello into thinking Cassio was gloating and bragging about his affair with Desdemona?
12. What was Lodovico's reaction to Othello's behavior towards Desdemona? How did Iago later explain Othello's behavior to Lodovico?
13. Why did Othello ask Emilia about Cassio's affair with Desdemona, and what was her reply?
14. To whom does Desdemona turn to for help after Othello calls her a strumpet?
15. Why did Iago tell Roderigo to kill Cassio? Why did Roderigo consent to think about it?
16. What did Iago do after he wounded Cassio?
17. How was Desdemona faithful to Othello until the end?
18. What was Emilia's reaction when Othello told her that Iago had revealed Desdemona's affair with Cassio to him?
29. Who told the truth about Iago?
20. What happened to Othello, Iago, and Cassio at the end of the drama?
21. What is a sonnet?
22. What is a Lyric?
23. What is a Tragedy?
 24. What is Hamartia? Give one example of it.
 25. Explain 'Catharsis' in your own words.
 26. What is 'onomatopoeia'?
 27. Explain the concept of Revenge Tragedy briefly.

28. What is the entomological meaning of the word 'Metaphysical'?
29. Define 'Conceit' in your own words?
30. Define hyperbole briefly.
31. Define 'Carpe diem' in your own words.

Q. 2) Answer the following questions in 150 words. (4 Marks)

1. How is Othello's race a factor in the play?
2. Othello is often called a tragic hero. Discuss his heroic qualities as well as his flaws which lead to his demise.
3. What motives, stated and implied does Iago have for taking revenge on Othello?
4. Discuss how loyalty is presented as a positive and a negative quality throughout the play "Othello".
5. Compare and contrast the jealousy of Othello to that of Iago.
6. Although Othello is the title character in what way is Iago the main character?
7. Describe how Othello's pride leads to his fall.
8. In what ways do Othello's suicide strengthen or undermine his heroism?
9. Comment on the features of Revenge Tragedy?
10. Comment on the romantic love in Sir Philip Sidney's 'The Curious Wits...'
11. Comment on the treatment of love by Sir Philip Sidney and Edmund Spenser in their poems.
12. Discuss the central idea of Edmund Spenser's 'What guile is this...'
13. Is love or beauty ephemeral in 'To Daffodils' by Robert Herrick? Elaborate.
14. Comment on the image of women as reflected in the poems of Donne and Marvell.
15. Does Andrew Marvell's 'To His Coy Mistress' celebrate physical love? Substantiate.
16. Can 'The Sunne Rising' and 'To His Coy Mistress' be considered dramatic monologues? Justify your view.
17. Comment on the central idea of 'Stella since thou...'
18. Discuss the Rhyme scheme in Philip Sidney's 'Loving in Truth...'
19. Comment on the Imagery in 'What guile is this...'
20. Comment on the description of the beloved in 'In that proud port...'
21. What is a 'Metaphysical conceit'? Illustrate with the help of prescribed poems.
22. Comment on the Renaissance elements reflected in Metaphysical Poetry.
23. Comment on the treatment of love by John Donne and Robert Herrick in their poems.
24. Do you agree that Andrew Marvell uses hyperboles and allusions excessively? Explain.
25. Discuss the theme of Spenser's sonnet, 'The merry Cuckow...'
26. Discuss how Donne uses religious vocabulary in Canonization.

27. A Valediction Forbidding Mourning is a typical Metaphysical poem which appeals to our intellect rather than our emotions. Do you agree? Justify your answer.
28. Can Marvell's To His Coy Mistress be called a love poem?
29. What role do soliloquies play in 'The Spanish Tragedy'?
30. How does Hieronimo's insanity manifest itself in 'The Spanish Tragedy'?
31. What role does Bel-Imperia play in 'The Spanish Tragedy'?
32. Explain how Sir Philip Sidney's 'Loving In Truth' is a typical Elizabethan sonnet.
33. Write a note on the theme of Edmund Spenser's 'The Merry Cuckow'.
34. Comment on the images used in Sir Philip Sidney's 'Stella Since Thou'
35. Comment on Sidney's handling of the sonnet form in the poems prescribed for your study.
36. Discuss the themes of Sidney's three sonnets prescribed for your study.
37. Comment on the theme and structure of Edmund Spenser's 'The merry Cuckoo'.
38. Refer to the prescribed lyrics and discuss Spenser as a love poet.
39. Bring out the dramatic element in 'The Sunne Rising' and 'A Valediction Forbidding Morning'.
40. Explain how Robert Herrick's poetry is characterized by figurative language, delightful conceit and revived conventions.
41. How does John Donne argue for the canonization of lovers?
42. Discuss 'Definition of Love' as a metaphysical poem.

Q. 3) Write a short note on the following. (8 Marks)

1. In another play by Shakespeare a tragic hero described himself as 'more sinned against than sinning.' In your opinion, could this also be true of Othello?
2. 'The tragedy of a handkerchief.' Is the play 'Othello' as trivial as this comment implies?
3. How far are you convinced by Iago's reasons for the causes of action that he pursues in the play?
4. 'The women in 'Othello' are articulate, but frustratingly unable to save themselves from the cruelty of men.' Evaluate this view by exploring the presentation of women and their situations in the play.
5. 'Despite his apparent good nature, Cassio plays a significant part in Othello's downfall.' By exploring the presentation of Cassio in 'Othello', evaluate this view.
6. By considering the dramatic presentation of 'Othello', evaluate the view that 'the power of the play lies in its central paradox: that Othello is shown to be both a hero and a fool.'
7. 'For a hero, Othello is too easy to pity, too hard to like.' By considering the dramatic presentation of Othello, evaluate this view.

8. By considering the dramatic effects of the play, evaluate the view that 'Iago does not destroy Othello; he provokes Othello to destroy himself.'
9. How far do you agree that Desdemona is both 'brave and touchingly naïve in her character and actions'?
10. What is the importance of 'The Spanish Tragedy' in the development of Elizabethan and Jacobean Tragedy?
11. Explain the characteristics of Elizabethan Period.
12. Explain the characteristics of Restoration Period.
13. Explain the characteristics of Neo-Classical Period.
14. Explain the characteristics of Renaissance.
15. Explain the term "Metaphysical" and the features of Metaphysical Poetry.
16. Discuss how Philip Sidney and Edmund Spenser deal with the theme of 'love' in their poetry.
17. Discuss the prominent features of Pre-Shakespearean English drama.
18. What features of the Renaissance are reflected in Elizabethan literature?
19. How far Thomas Kyd is successful in using the technique of play within a play?
20. Comment on the theme of greed and betrayal in 'The Spanish Tragedy'.
21. Are all the four Acts in 'The Spanish Tragedy' are well organized? Substantiate.
22. Write a note on portrayal of the characters of the King of Spain, Duke of Castile and Lorenzo in 'The Spanish Tragedy'.
23. Write a note on lyrical quality of Elizabethan sonnets with the help of poems of Sir Philip Sidney and Edmund Spenser read by you.
24. What are the main themes of Edmund Spenser's 'In that proud port..,' and 'The merry Cuckow...'?
25. Comment on the treatment of love in Sir Philip Sidney's poems.
26. Illustrate the theme of physical love in metaphysical poems by Marvell.
27. Comment on the use of images in 'The Sunne Rising' and 'To His Coy Mistress'.
28. Elaborate on the common features of poetry in the poems of Herrick, Donne and Marvell.
29. Bring out the theme of betrayal in 'The Spanish Tragedy'.
30. Can Bel-Imperia be considered heroine of The Spanish Tragedy?
Explain.
31. Comment on the theme of Edmund Spenser's 'What Guile Is This'
32. Explain how Sir Philip Sidney's 'Loving in Truth' is a typical Elizabethan sonnet.
33. Write a note on the use of images in Sir Philip Sidney's Sonnet 'Stella Since Thou'.
34. Andrew Marvell's 'To His Coy Mistress' is a meditation on time and death." Discuss.
35. Comment on the theme of love in John Donne's 'The Cononization'.
36. Discuss the theme of life and death in Robert Herricks's 'To Daffodils'.

37. Explain how Thomas Kyd's 'The Spanish Tragedy' is a revenge play.
38. Discuss the representation of the supernatural in Thomas Kyd's 'The Spanish Tragedy'.
39. Discuss the theme of revenge and justice in Thomas Kyd's 'The Spanish Tragedy'.
40. Write a note on Hieronimo, the protagonist of 'The Spanish Tragedy'.

Q. 5) Long answer questions (12 Marks)

1. Shakespeare's 'Othello' remains relevant for a modern audience. Discuss.
2. Despite the striking portrayals of goodness and nobility, the play 'Othello' leaves the audience with a sense of dismal despair.
3. 'Othello' contains many scenes of compelling drama. Choose one scene which you found particularly compelling and discuss why you found it so.
4. Comment on the Senecan influence on 'The Spanish Tragedy'.
5. Discuss the features of Shakespearean tragedy reflected in 'Othello'.
6. Discuss the features of Elizabethan theatre.
7. Discuss Sidney's 'Astrophel and Stella', as a typical example of a sonnet sequence.
8. What was Spenser's contribution to the sonnet form?
9. Discuss the factors responsible for the rapid growth of the novel form during the 18th century.
10. Explain how Sir Philip Sidney and Edmund Spenser were the chief sonneteers of the Elizabethan age.
11. Explain how love and nature are the major themes in the poetry of Andrew Marvell.
12. Discuss briefly the use of far-fetched conceits in John Donne's poems that you have studied.
13. Comment on the melancholic note in Robert Herrick's 'To Daffodils'.
14. What are the distinguishing features of Shakespearean tragedy?
15. Discuss Sidney and Spenser as poets of courtly love.
16. Discuss 'unified sensibility' as the hallmark of metaphysical poetry.
17. Write a note on the possible sources of 'The Spanish Tragedy'.
18. Will you call the characters in 'The Spanish Tragedy' 'types' rather than 'individuals'? Justify your answer.
19. Consider 'The Spanish Tragedy' as a play of transition, the transition from the Moralities to the early Elizabethan plays.