

This unit targets Assessment Objective AO5i and also assesses AO1, AO2i, AO3 and AO4.

Answer ONE question.

1. *Henry V*

Either:

- (a) ‘In *Henry V*, Shakespeare shows the audience that a king needs to be both a brilliant speaker, and a calculating politician.’

Do you agree? You should include in your answer an examination of Act IV, scene 3.

Or:

- (b) ‘*Henry V* is not a pro-war or an anti-war play: it is a going-to-war play.’

What is your response to this judgement about Shakespeare’s dramatic presentation of war and attitudes to war in the play? You should include in your answer an examination of **at least two** extracts.

(Total 50 marks)

Q1

2. *Antony and Cleopatra*

Either:

- (a) ‘Although a modern audience may see the play as primarily about a tragic relationship, Shakespeare reveals that the question of who rules the world is much more important.’

What is your response to this view? You should include in your answer an examination of Act I, scene 2, from *Enter Enobarbus*, line 131.

Or:

- (b) ‘In the world he creates in *Antony and Cleopatra* Shakespeare wholly supports the Roman value of suicide as victory, not defeat.’

Do you agree? You should include in your answer an examination of **at least two** extracts.

(Total 50 marks)

Q2



3. *The Winter's Tale*

Either:

- (a) 'In *The Winter's Tale* Shakespeare explores the complex nature of guilt and redemption.'

Do you agree? You should include in your answer an examination of Act III, scene 2, from *Enter Servant*, line 139, to the end of the scene.

Or:

- (b) 'In *The Winter's Tale*, Shakespeare strongly emphasises the contrast of "sinful maturity" and "natural youth".'

What is your response to this view? You should include in your answer an examination of **at least two** extracts.

(Total 50 marks)

Q3

4. *Much Ado About Nothing*

Either:

- (a) 'In *Much Ado About Nothing* Shakespeare dramatically reveals the inferior role and status of the unmarried woman.'

What is your response to this statement? You should include in your answer an examination of Act II, scene 1, up to *All put on their masks*, line 76.

Or:

- (b) 'Shakespeare puts deception at the heart of the plot of *Much Ado About Nothing* – not just for comic effect, but as a means of exploring human behaviour and society.'

How do you respond to this view? You should include in your answer an examination of **at least two** extracts.

(Total 50 marks)

Q4



5. *Hamlet*

Either:

- (a) 'In *Hamlet*, Shakespeare is exploring the extent to which human beings are free.'

What is your response to this view? You should include in your answer an examination of Act II, scene 2 from *Exit Polonius*, line 221, to 'And hither are they coming to offer you service.' line 318.

Or:

- (b) 'Although Shakespeare makes it clear that Denmark is involved in political struggles, the real conflict in the play lies within Hamlet himself.'

Do you agree? You should include in your answer an examination of **at least two** extracts.

Q5

(Total 50 marks)



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