

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts

Special Degree Examination in Arts (English), Year 3, Semester 2, 2018

ENG 3249 – Shakespeare Studies

Two Hours

Answer TWO (02) questions, ONE question from Part A and ONE question from Part B.

Part A

Either

1. John Mullan writes that the title 'Measure for Measure' "seems devised to invite scepticism about the human right to dispense punishments in God's name". Critically explore the relationship between justice and punishment in Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* in relation to this statement, with close reference to the text.

Or

2. "Juliet's pregnant body is the originating site for this play's confrontation with sin and death" (Janet Adelman). Use this statement as a starting point for a critical exploration of the relationship between sexuality, sin, and death in Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*, making close reference to the text.

Part B

Either

3. "Deception is an essential political skill in maintaining a hold on power." In light of this statement, discuss the nexus between deceit and kingship in Shakespeare's *Richard III*, with close reference to the text.

Or

4. How far would you agree with the view that Shakespeare's *Richard III* offers a theatrically compelling portrait of evil? Support your response through a close analysis of the text. You may wish to refer to performances of the play.
