MA-17
ENGLISH Paper IV(C)
Shakespeare’s Comedies

Time : 3 Hours] [Total Marks : 100

1. (a) In Romantic Comedy Shakespeare fully satisfies the Elizabethan aesthetic demand for a drama which would gratify both the romantic and the comic instincts of its audience. Discuss. (10)

OR

(b) Write a critical note on Shakespeare’s festive comedy.

2. (a) The essential characteristic of a problem play is that it presents a perplexing and distressing complication of human life with high seriousness. Comment. (10)

OR

(b) Discuss the salient features of Shakespeare’s last plays.

3. (a) The courtly characters of Love’s Labours Lost are not made into convincing individuals, but are shallow and lightly sketched. Discuss. (10)

OR

(b) In Love’s Labours Lost, Shakespeare views learning and love with an admiring but ironic eye. Discuss.

4. (a) A silvery undertone of sadness makes Twelfth Night perhaps the loveliest of Shakespeare’s high comedies. Comment. (10)

OR

(b) Evaluate the character of Viola.

5. (a) A Midsummer Night’s Dream is a comedy whose interest depends on confusions, cross-purposes and a beautiful setting. Discuss. (10)

OR

(b) Shakespeare’s treatment of fairies in A Midsummer Night’s Dream suggests mirth, goodwill and some harmless mischief. Illustrate.
6. (a) **As You Like It** is the sweetest and happiest of all Shakespeare’s comedies. Discuss.  

OR

(b) Draw a pen-picture of Rosalind.

7. (a) **Measure for Measure** is a dark play in its focus on evil and its seemingly cynical attitude towards two basic human concerns, sex and the ordering of society. Comment.  

OR

(b) The low-life characters in **Measure for Measure** are in the play not only to make us laugh; they have many serious functions. Discuss.

8. (a) **The Winter’s Tale** is a story of moral resurrection, forgiveness and reconciliation. Discuss.  

OR

(b) Evaluate **The Winter’s Tale** as a romance.

9. Show your acquaintance with any **four** of the following:  

   (1) Volpone  
   (2) Troilus and Cressida  
   (3) The Comedy of Errors  
   (4) Every Man in his Humour  
   (5) Cymbeline  
   (6) Taming of the Shrew  
   (7) Two Gentlemen of Verona  
   (8) Much Ado About Nothing