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The Assam Royal Global University, Guwahati
Royal School of Languages
M.A English 1ST Semester
Semester End Examination, January 2023
Course Title : English Drama (Marlowe to Webster)
Course Code : ENG104C103

Time: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 70

Note: Attempt all questions as per instructions given.

The figures in the right-hand margin indicate marks.

Section – A

1. Attempt **all** questions. (Maximum word limit 50) 2 x 8
- a. Who were the University Wits? Name three of their most famous plays.
 - b. The historical Faustus was a contemporary of another eminent German Reformer. State the similarities they share and differ.
 - c. Who are the central characters and foils in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*?
 - d. "Something is rotten in the state of Denmark." Who says this and why?
 - e. When was the play *Every Man in His Humour* written? To which genre does it belong?
 - f. Why is Ben Jonson a restoration dramatist? Give two reasons.
 - g. Highlight two literary characteristics of John Webster as a dramstist.
 - h. Write briefly about the dream of Vittoria.

Section – B

2. Attempt **any one** of the following: 12 x 1
- a. Against the background of Renaissance ideas of Humanism and wisdom. Discuss how Marlowe's *Dr. Faustus* is the tragedy of the Renaissance "Virtue".
 - b. Do you agree with James Smith who saw Marlowe's *Dr. Faustus* as a form of allegory? Discuss with illustrations from the text.
3. Attempt **any two** of the following: 7 x 2
- a. To really understand the plot development of Hamlet, one needs to understand the actual meaning and concept of each of Hamlet's soliloquies. Illustrate.
 - b. T.S. Eliot critiqued Shakespeare's *Hamlet* as an Artistic failure. Against this background discuss Hamlet as a tragic hero.
 - c. Why does Hamlet pretend to be mad? What does he hope to achieve by this disguise? What is its purpose? Is it a successful tactic?
4. Attempt **any two** of the following: 7 x 2
- a. Examine the element of realism in Ben Jonson's play *Every Man in His Humour*.
 - b. What is a Prologue? Write about its importance in English drama.
 - c. Give an assessment of Ben Jonson as a dramatist and his contributions to the English Drama.
5. Attempt **any two** of the following: 7 x 2
- a. What is a revenge tragedy? Justify *The White Devil* as an apt example of a revenge tragedy.
 - b. Comment on the aspect of Female Virtue in *The White Devil*.
 - c. What was the social background that influenced Webster to write the play *The White Devil*?