

SMARTWIZ

GRADE11 ENGLISH LITERATURE EXAM

MARKS: 80

TIME: 2 HOURS

SCHOOL _____

CLASS (eg. 4A) _____

SURNAME _____

NAME _____

MARKS	
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Instructions for Learners:

- Read all instructions carefully before you begin the exam.
- Write your full name and student number clearly on the answer sheet/book.
- Answer all questions unless otherwise instructed.
- Show all your work/calculations where necessary.
- Write neatly and clearly.
- Use only a blue or black pen. Do not use correction fluid or tape.
- Electronic devices (calculators, cell phones, etc.) are not allowed unless explicitly permitted.
- Raise your hand if you have any questions.
- Do not talk to other learners during the exam.
- Any form of cheating will result in immediate disqualification from the exam.

This exam consists of six pages, including the cover page.

SECTION A: *HAMLET* EXTRACT & SHORT ANSWERS (40 marks)

Extract: Hamlet speaking to the Ghost of his father (Act 1, Scene 5)

Ghost: I am thy father's spirit,
Doom'd for a certain term to walk the night,
And for the day confined to fast in fires,
Till the foul crimes done in my days of nature
Are burnt and purged away.

1.1 Who is speaking in this extract? To whom? (2)

1.2 What is the Ghost's condition and why? (3)

1.3 What effect does the Ghost's revelation have on Hamlet? (3)

1.4 Explain what Hamlet means when he says: "O my prophetic soul!" (3)

1.5 How does this scene contribute to the overall theme of revenge in the play? (4)

SECTION B: CHARACTER STUDY (20 marks)

2.1 Describe Hamlet's character. Give three traits and support each with evidence from the play. (6)

2.2 How does Hamlet's relationship with Ophelia develop throughout the play? (4)

2.3 Discuss the role of Claudius as an antagonist in *Hamlet*. (5)

2.4 What role does Gertrude play in the unfolding tragedy? (5)

SECTION C: THEMES AND MOTIFS (10 marks)

3.1 Identify two major themes in *Hamlet* and explain how they are developed in the play. (6)

3.2 Discuss the significance of madness (real or feigned) as a motif in *Hamlet*. (4)

SECTION D: ESSAY (10 marks)

Write a well-structured essay of about **150–180 words** on the following topic:

“Discuss how Shakespeare presents the theme of betrayal in *Hamlet*.”

In your essay, refer to specific characters and events, use relevant examples, and explain their importance.

END OF EXAM

TOTAL : 80

MEMO

SECTION A: *HAMLET* EXTRACT & SHORT ANSWERS (40 marks)

1.1

- Speaker: The Ghost of Hamlet's father
- Spoken to: Hamlet
- (2 marks)

1.2

- The Ghost is condemned to wander at night and suffer in fires by day.
- Because of the crimes he committed while alive that must be purged.
- (3 marks)

1.3

- Hamlet is shocked and disturbed by the Ghost's revelation.
- He learns the truth about his father's murder.
- This sets him on the path of revenge.
- (3 marks)

1.4

- Hamlet's "prophetic soul" means he had a premonition or suspicion that Claudius was guilty.
- He feels his intuition is confirmed.
- (3 marks)

1.5

- The scene introduces the revenge theme as Hamlet is commanded to avenge his father's murder.
- It creates tension and moral conflict.
- Sets up the central conflict driving the plot.
- (4 marks)

SECTION B: CHARACTER STUDY (20 marks)

2.1

- Examples of Hamlet's traits:
 - **Intelligent/Thoughtful:** Philosophical soliloquies.
 - **Indecisive:** Delays avenging his father.
 - **Melancholy:** Sadness over his father's death and mother's remarriage.

- Support with quotations or plot examples.
- (6 marks)

2.2

- Hamlet's relationship with Ophelia is complex:
 - Initially affectionate or respectful.
 - Becomes cold and cruel, possibly to protect her or due to his own pain.
 - Ophelia's madness and death affect Hamlet deeply.
- (4 marks)

2.3

- Claudius is the antagonist:
 - Murdered King Hamlet to seize throne and marry Gertrude.
 - Manipulative and power-hungry.
 - His guilt leads to paranoia.
- (5 marks)

2.4

- Gertrude is Hamlet's mother:
 - Her quick remarriage is a source of Hamlet's anger.
 - She is caught between Claudius and Hamlet.
 - Her loyalty and awareness are ambiguous.
- (5 marks)

SECTION C: THEMES AND MOTIFS (10 marks)

3.1

- Examples of themes:
 - **Revenge:** Hamlet avenges his father's murder.
 - **Death:** Frequent meditation on mortality and afterlife.
- Explanation of how these are developed through plot and characters.
- (6 marks)

3.2

- Madness appears as a motif:
 - Hamlet feigns madness to uncover truth.
 - Ophelia's real madness and its tragic effects.
 - Madness reflects chaos and uncertainty.
 - (4 marks)
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SECTION D: ESSAY (10 marks)

Criteria	Marks
Understanding of theme	/4
Use of textual evidence	/3
Coherence and structure	/2
Language and expression	/1
Total	/10

Sample points:

- Betrayal is central: Claudius betrays King Hamlet by murder.
- Gertrude's remarriage seen as betrayal by Hamlet.
- Rosencrantz and Guildenstern betray Hamlet by spying.
- Hamlet struggles with feelings of betrayal by those closest to him.
- Betrayal drives much of the tragedy's action and Hamlet's internal conflict.

✓ **TOTAL: 80 MARKS**

MYST PATHWORKS