

SMARTWIZ

GRADE11 ENGLISH LITERATURE EXAM

MARKS: 80

MARKS	

TIME: 2 HOURS

SCHOOL _____

CLASS (eg. 4A) _____

SURNAME _____

NAME _____

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's conversation with Horatio (Act 1, Scene 2)

Hamlet:

"Seems, madam! Nay, it is; I know not 'seems.'
'Tis not alone my inky cloak, good mother,
Nor customary suits of solemn black,
Nor windy suspiration of forced breath,
No, nor the fruitful river in the eye,
Nor the dejected 'haviour of the visage,
Together with all forms, moods, shows of grief,
That can denote me truly: these indeed seem,
For they are actions that a man might play;
But I have that within which passeth show;
These but the trappings and the suits of woe."

1.1 Who is Hamlet speaking to in this extract? (2)

1.2 What does Hamlet mean when he says, "Seems, madam! Nay, it is"? (3)

1.3 Identify and explain two examples of imagery used in this extract. (4)

1.4 What does Hamlet imply when he says, "But I have that within which passeth show"? (3)

1.5 How does this extract reflect Hamlet's emotional state? (4)

SECTION B: CHARACTER ANALYSIS (20 marks)

2.1 Explain the significance of Horatio's character in the play. (5)

2.2 Discuss the role of Polonius and how his actions influence the plot. (5)

2.3 Describe how Hamlet's attitude towards his mother changes throughout the play. (5)

2.4 Analyze Laertes' role as a foil to Hamlet. (5)

SECTION C: THEMES AND SYMBOLISM (10 marks)

3.1 Identify the role of appearance versus reality in *Hamlet*. Provide examples. (6)

3.2 Discuss the symbolism of the play-within-a-play (*The Mousetrap*). (4)

SECTION D: ESSAY (10 marks)

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

“Examine the theme of madness in *Hamlet* and how it affects the characters and the plot.”

Use examples and explain their significance.

END OF EXAM

TOTAL : 80

MEMO

SECTION A: EXTRACT & SHORT ANSWERS (40 marks)

1.1

- Hamlet is speaking to **Queen Gertrude**, his mother.
- (2 marks)

1.2

- Hamlet means that others may **pretend** to grieve, but his grief is **real**.
- He distinguishes between **outward appearances** (“seems”) and **genuine emotion** (“is”).
- (3 marks)

1.3

- **Imagery 1:** “Inky cloak” – visual image of mourning clothing.
- **Imagery 2:** “Fruitful river in the eye” – metaphor for tears.
- These create a picture of grief and emphasize how grief can be both visible and internal.
- (4 marks)

1.4

- Hamlet suggests that his grief goes **deeper than surface-level expressions**.
- What he feels “within” is more profound than what can be seen.
- (3 marks)

1.5

- The extract shows that Hamlet is deeply **sorrowful, disillusioned**, and possibly **angry**.
- He feels misunderstood and frustrated by those around him, especially Gertrude.
- (4 marks)

SECTION B: CHARACTER ANALYSIS (20 marks)

2.1

- Horatio is Hamlet’s **trusted friend** and confidant.
- He is rational, loyal, and provides support.
- Witnesses the ghost and the final events.
- His presence lends credibility and emotional balance.
- (5 marks)

2.2

- Polonius is **manipulative** and **nosy**.
- Spies on Hamlet, instructs Ophelia to avoid him, and hides behind curtains.
- His death triggers Ophelia's madness and Laertes' revenge.
- (5 marks)

2.3

- Hamlet initially feels betrayed by Gertrude's **hasty remarriage**.
- He becomes bitter and accusatory, calling her weak and immoral.
- Later, he shows **concern for her safety**, especially during the poisoning.
- (5 marks)

2.4

- Laertes is a **foil** because he acts quickly and emotionally, while Hamlet is cautious and reflective.
- Both seek revenge for their fathers' deaths.
- Laertes' impulsiveness highlights Hamlet's indecision.
- (5 marks)

SECTION C: THEMES AND SYMBOLISM (10 marks)

3.1

- Appearance vs. reality:
 - Hamlet pretends to be mad.
 - Claudius appears noble but is a murderer.
 - Rosencrantz and Guildenstern pretend to be friends but are spies.
- (6 marks)

3.2

- The *Mousetrap* symbolizes truth revealed through performance.
 - It allows Hamlet to "catch the conscience of the king."
 - Shows how art exposes reality.
 - (4 marks)
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SECTION D: ESSAY (10 marks)

Criteria	Marks
Insight into the theme	/4
Use of relevant evidence	/3
Logical structure & flow	/2
Language & expression	/1
Total	/10

Suggested points:

- Madness is a central theme.
- Hamlet's **feigned madness** helps him investigate the truth.
- Ophelia's **real madness** results from grief and pressure.
- Claudius is confused by Hamlet's behavior, which increases tension.
- Madness affects characters' **relationships, actions**, and the **tragic outcome**.

✓ **TOTAL: 80 MARKS**

