DURATION: 3 hours  TOTAL MARKS 100

Internal Examiner : Prof. M.Z. Malaba

External Examiner: Prof. R.A. Gray

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Students are requested, in their own interest, to write legibly.
2. This paper consists of 2 pages. Please see that you have them all.
3. Answer three questions. Do not write on the same text twice.
4. Each answer should take the form of a coherent essay.

QUESTION 1

Discuss salient aspects of one of the definitions of tragedy that you studied in this module and show, with detailed reference to one of the plays you studied in this module, how it enhanced your understanding of tragedy.

QUESTION 2

"And all these images [the sickness, the cure, and the physician who will find it], like the plot, like the hero, have what Aristotle called their peripeteia, their reversal. The hunter catches a dreadful prey, the seaman steers his ship into an unspeakable harbor - 'one and the same wide harbor served you / son and father both' (1335 – 1336) - the plowman sows and reaps a fearful harvest, the investigator finds the criminal and the judge convicts him - they are the same man - the revealer turns into the thing revealed, the finder into the thing found, the calculator finds he is himself the solution to the equation and the physician discovers that he is the disease. The catastrophe of the tragic hero thus becomes the catastrophe of the fifth-century man; all his furious energy and intellectual daring drive him on to this terrible discovery of his fundamental ignorance - he is not the measure of all things but the thing to be measured and found wanting."(Robert Fagles)

Assess this evaluation of Oedipus the King with close reference to the text.
QUESTION 3

"There is no need that this man be attended by a hundred knights, that his messenger be deferentially treated, or that his children offer him more than subsistence. His cause rests upon no more rational grounds than our powers of sympathy and imagination. 'O reason not the need.' As his every expectation is brutally defeated, and as he looks in dazed recognition upon the world as it is instead of what he thought it was, of himself as he is instead of what he thought he was, we defer to his past illusions. He had never identified prestige as power, had never imagined that the visages of respect, kindliness, and love could contort into the hideous lines of icy contempt and sour indifference." (Alfred Harbage)

Assess this evaluation of Lear's plight. Do you accept the underlying assumptions Harbage makes?

QUESTION 4

"We need no acquaintance with Elizabethan ethical psychology to appreciate the ironic fate of a hero who in striving to be a god becomes less than a man. Only a dimwitted Clown would sell his soul for a mutton roast and a bit of lechery. Yet Faustus ends his days in 'belly cheer', carousing and swilling with the students. The scholar who pursued knowledge beyond the utmost bound of human thought finally takes Helen as a paramour to drown vexatious thought in wantonness. Actually it does not matter whether one sells one's soul for infinite power or for belly cheer. Both transactions are ridiculous, the first even more than the second because it is far less realistic. Faustus, who dreamed of commanding the powers of heaven and earth, finds that he cannot check the movement of the stars when death threatens. In his vain rebellion there is comedy; in his fall from grace irrevocable tragedy." (Robert Ornstein)

Evaluate the veracity\(^\dagger\) of the assertions made above with detailed reference to Christopher Marlowe's Doctor Faustus.

QUESTION 5

Arthur Miller's A View from a Bridge fails to secure tragic stature because Eddie Carbone emerges as a pathetic figure rather than a person who elicits the sympathy of the audience because of his tragic flaw. Discuss, with detailed reference to the play.

\(^\dagger\) The accuracy.