



MASEÑO UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2013/2014

**FIRST YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS FOR THE
DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN LITERATURE**

(MAIN CAMPUS)

ALI 811: SPECIAL AUTHOR (NON AFRICAN)

Date: 25th November, 2013,

Time: 9.00 - 12.00 noon

INSTRUCTIONS:

- **Answer ANY THREE questions.**
- **Avoid unnecessary duplication of material in answer to more than one question.**
- **Do not write any rough work on the question paper.**

1. "While there are some redeeming features in the character of Macbeth, Lady Macbeth is portrayed as a ruthless opportunist, whose ambition for her husband supersedes all moral considerations". To what extent do you agree with this statement? [20 Marks]
2. Considering justice and equity in **Merchant of Venice** by W. Shakespeare, would you argue that the play is a tragedy or comedy? Give reasons for your answer. [20 Marks]
3. "In the tragic world of Shakespeare, fate is shown as invariably siding with the most malicious". How far do you consider this a fitting comment on **Othello**? [20 Marks]
4. Basing your arguments on four different scenes of Hamlet's soliloquies, discuss what brings his downfall and destruction. [20 Marks]
5. With reference to at least four of Shakespeare's **Sonnets**, discuss how the poet brings out the theme of time, love, beauty and mortality. [20 Marks]

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