



Sh. L. N. Hindu College, Rohtak (Haryana)

Course Plan

Department of English

Program: BA

Semester VI- English (Text and Composition)

SCHEME

Course Name	English	Course Type	Theory
Course Code		Class	BA III(Sem -6).
Instruction Delivery	Text Per week Lectures: 6 Tutorial:1 Total No. Classes Per Sem: 60(L), 10(T) Composition Per week Lectures: 3 lecture per group Tutorial:1 Total No. Classes Per Sem: 20(L) per group Assessment in Weightage: Sessional (20%), End Term Exams (80%)		
Course Coordinator	Dr Shikha	Course Instructors	Theory: Dr Sumit Kumari Dahiya

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course aims to enhance students' understanding and interpretation of William Shakespeare's play, "The Merchant of Venice." Through a comprehensive analysis of the play's themes, characters, and literary techniques, students will develop critical thinking skills and gain a deeper appreciation for Shakespearean drama. Additionally, the course will focus on improving students' composition skills by providing practical exercises in writing precis, letters, and summaries.

PREREQUISITE

Basic understanding of literature, language ,grammar and critical analysis.

COURSE OBJECTIVE

1. To familiarize students with the plot, characters, and themes of "The Merchant of Venice."
2. To develop students' ability to analyze and interpret Shakespearean drama.
3. To enhance students' critical thinking skills through the examination of complex literary techniques.
4. To improve students' composition skills in writing precis, letters, and summaries.
5. To encourage students to develop their own unique writing style and voice.

COURSE OUTCOMES (COs)

CO No.	Course Outcomes
1	Students will demonstrate a thorough knowledge and understanding of the play "The Merchant of Venice," including its plot, characters, themes, and literary techniques.



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	Students will develop critical thinking skills by analyzing and interpreting complex literary elements in the play, such as symbolism, imagery, and dramatic techniques.
2	Students will be able to interpret and analyze the play's themes, characters, and conflicts, and articulate their interpretations effectively both verbally and in writing.
3	Students will develop effective composition skills, specifically in writing precis, letters, and summaries, demonstrating clarity, conciseness, and coherence in their written work.
4	Students will enhance their communication skills by effectively expressing their thoughts and ideas through written assignments, discussions, and presentations related to the play and the course content. Students will develop research skills by conducting in-depth analysis and research on the play, its historical context, and related literary criticism.

COURSECONTENT

Content
<p>Introduction to "The Merchant of Venice"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical and cultural context of the play • Overview of the plot and major themes <p>Analysis of Characters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portia: A closer look at the heroine • Shylock: Understanding the complexities of the antagonist • Antonio and Bassanio: Examining their friendship and motivations and other minor characters <p>Themes in "The Merchant of Venice"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prejudice and discrimination • Justice and mercy • Love and friendship <p>Close Reading and Textual Analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyzing key scenes and soliloquies • Identifying literary devices and their significance <p>Composition Skills - Writing Precis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the concept of precis writing • Techniques and strategies for writing effective precis <p>Composition Skills - Letter Writing</p>



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- Different types of letters (formal, informal, persuasive)
 - Structure and format of letters
 - Polishing letter writing skills through practice exercises
- Composition Skills - Summary Writing and one word substitute

- Techniques for summarizing longer texts
- Identifying key points and main ideas
- Developing concise and coherent summaries

LESSON PLAN (Text) (THEORY AND TUTORIAL CLASSES)

L. No	Topic to be Delivered	Tutorial Plan
1-4	Overview of the play's historical context and Shakespearean era.	Practice Qs regarding overview and theme
5-8	Analysis of key characters and themes.	
9-10	Types of Drama	
11-18	Reading, discussion and critical analysis of Act I	Discussion of major events and characters of Act I
19-25	Reading, discussion and critical analysis of Act II	Discussion of major events and characters of Act II
26-34	Reading, discussion and critical analysis of Act III	Discussion of major events and characters of Act III
35-43	Reading, discussion and critical analysis of Act IV	Discussion of major events and characters of Act IV
44-52	Reading, discussion and critical analysis of Act V	Discussion of major events and characters of Act V
53-55	Detailed character analysis (Shylock, Antonio, Portia, etc.).	Practice Qs of main characters of play
56-58	Exploration of major themes (justice, mercy, love, revenge).	
59-65	Discussion of short and long answer Qs and revision of syllabus	Revision



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LESSON PLAN (Composition) (THEORY AND TUTORIAL CLASSES)

L. No	Topic to be Delivered	Tutorial Plan
1-4	Overview of letter writing, precis, and summary.	Practice session of drafting letter
5-8	Explanation of structure and format for each type.	
9-15	Letter Writing: Drafting formal, informal and business letters.	
16-22	Precis Writing: Exercises on condensing information.	Discussion of problems faced while writing precis and summary
23-26	Summary Writing: Summarizing passages with emphasis on key points.	
27-29	One word substitute	Revision
30-31	Precis and summary writing exercises	
31-33	Practice of letter writing and revision of syllabus	

Text Book

1. Shakespeare, William. The Merchant of Venice.

Reference Books

1. The Necessary Shakespeare: The Merchant of Venice by F. Rooks Harold
2. A Handbook of English Grammar by R. W. Zandvoort
3. A Comprehensive Grammar of English Language by Randolph Quirk
4. The Merchant of Venice: A Guide to the Play” by Jay L. Halio
5. Shakespeare’s Language: A Glossary of Unfamiliar Words in His Plays and Poems” by Eugene F. Shewmaker
6. Writing with Precision: How to Write So That You Cannot Possibly Be Misunderstood” by Jefferson D. Bates
7. The Only Grammar Book You’ll Ever Need” by Susan Thurman

Web/Links for e-content

1. <https://www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare/merchant/>
2. <https://www.englishsummary.com/how-to-write-a-precis/>
3. <https://www.grammarly.com/blog/how-to-write-a-letter/>
4. <https://www.grammarly.com/blog/how-to-write-a-summary>



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PRACTICE QUESTIONS (QUESTION BANK)

S No	Problem
1	Q1. Definition of drama and its types
2	Q2. Discuss the role of minor characters in the play?
3	What makes Shakespeare such a famous playwright?
4	Detailed character sketch of Portia?
5	Merchant of Venice as a tragicomedy. Discuss?
6	Character sketch of Antonio?
7	Character sketch of the Bassanio?
8	Illustrate the theme of friendship and loyalty in the play
9	character sketch of Shylock
10	Examine the relevance of the casket test in the play. What does this plot device reveal about the characters' values and the broader themes explored by Shakespeare?
11	Analyze the portrayal of love and relationships in "The Merchant of Venice," focusing on the romantic entanglements of Bassanio and Portia, Jessica and Lorenzo, and Antonio's deep friendship with Bassanio. How do these relationships contribute to the thematic richness of the play?
12	Explore the historical and cultural context of Venice in the play. How does the setting influence the characters' actions, societal norms, and the unfolding of the plot?
13	Discuss the use of comic elements in "The Merchant of Venice." How does Shakespeare balance comedy and drama, and what purpose do the comedic elements serve in the overall structure of the play?
14	Examine the theme of justice in "The Merchant of Venice." How is the concept of justice portrayed, and what implications does it have for various characters in the play, particularly Shylock and Antonio?
15	Short answer questions- <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What is the significance of the pound of flesh in the bond between Shylock and Antonio?2. How does Portia disguise herself, and what role does her disguise play in the courtroom scene?3. What motivates Shylock's desire for revenge, and how does this drive the conflict in the play?4. Explain the concept of the casket test. How does it contribute to the development of the plot and characters?5. Describe the bond between Antonio and Bassanio. How does it



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shape the events in the play?

6. What role does Jessica play in the storyline, and how does her marriage to Lorenzo impact the narrative?

7. How does the play explore the theme of mercy, especially in relation to Shylock's character?

8. What are some instances of comic relief in "The Merchant of Venice," and how do they contribute to the overall tone of the play?

9. Examine the character of Nerissa. What is her relationship with Portia, and how does she contribute to the plot?

10. Discuss the resolution of the play and the fate of the main characters. How are conflicts resolved, and what lessons can be drawn from the conclusion of "The Merchant of Venice"?