# Information

**University of Oslo**
**Department of Literature, Area Studies and European Languages**
**Autumn 2025**
**ENG4367 - Shakespeare**

The exam has four topics to choose from, and you will write an essay on one of them.

All questions must be answered in English.

What you write will be stored automatically every 15 seconds.

After starting the exam, you will see your remaining time in the upper left corner.

No examination support material is allowed.

Break a leg!

## 1 ENG4367 Exam 2025

Choose ONE of the following topics:

1. Write an essay on Othello's final speech **(5.2.336—57, text provided)**. How does it either resolve or complicate some of the key problems in the play?

2. What are the dramatic purposes of Laertes and Ophelia?

3. Write an essay on the figure of Jessica, discussing her function in the play as well as the problems this character enables Shakespeare to represent.

4. Write an essay on Lear's encounter with Edgar and Gloucester in 4.6.80—183 **(text provided)**, discussing the ways in which this passage develops key ideas in the play.

**Fill in your answer here**

Format

Words: 0

Maximum marks: 0

**Question 1**
Attached



**Exam texts, ENG4367 Shakespeare, autumn 2025**

***Othello* 5.2.336—57:**
OTHELLO Soft you, a word or two before you go.
I have done the state some service, and they know ’t:
No more of that. I pray you, in your letters,
When you shall these unlucky deeds relate,
Speak of me as I am. Nothing extenuate,
Nor set down aught in malice. Then must you speak
Of one that loved not wisely, but too well;
Of one not easily jealous, but being wrought,
Perplexed in the extreme; of one whose hand,
Like the base Indian*, threw a pearl away [*alternative reading: ‘Judean’]
Richer than all his tribe; of one whose subdued eyes,
Albeit unused to the melting mood,
Drops tears as fast as the Arabian trees
Their medicinable gum. Set you down this.
And say besides, that in Aleppo once,
Where a malignant and a turbanned Turk
Beat a Venetian and traduced the state,
I took by th’ throat the circumcisèd dog,
And smote him, thus. (He stabs himself.)
LODOVICO O bloody period!
GRATIANO All that is spoke is marred.
OTHELLO (to Desdemona) I kissed thee ere I killed thee. No way but this,
Killing myself, to die upon a kiss. (Kisses Desdemona, and dies.)

***King Lear* 4.6.80—183:**
(Enter Lear, mad, crowned with wild flowers)
EDGAR But who comes here?
The safer sense will ne’er accommodate
His master thus.
LEAR No, they cannot touch me for coining. I am the
King himself.
EDGAR O, thou side-piercing sight!
LEAR Nature’s above art in that respect. There’s your press-money. That fellow handles his bow like a crowkeeper: draw me a clothier’s yard. Look, look, a mouse! Peace, peace, this piece of toasted cheese will do ’t. There’s my gauntlet, I’ll prove it on a giant. Bring up the brown bills. O, well flown, bird! I’ th’ clout, i’ th’ clout! Hewgh! Give the word.
EDGAR Sweet marjoram.
LEAR Pass.
GLOUCESTER I know that voice.
LEAR Ha! Goneril with a white beard? They flattered me like a dog and told me I had the white hairs in my beard ere the black ones were there. To say “ay” and “no” to everything that I said “ay” and “no” to was no good divinity. When the rain came to wet me once and the wind to make me chatter, when the thunder would not peace at my bidding, there I found ’em, there I smelt ’em out. Go to. They are not men o’ their words; they told me I was everything. ’Tis a lie. I am not ague-proof.
GLOUCESTER The trick of that voice I do well remember.
Is ’t not the King?

LEAR Ay, every inch a king.
When I do stare, see how the subject quakes.
I pardon that man's life. What was thy cause?
Adultery? Thou shalt not die. Die for adultery? No!
The wren goes to 't, and the small gilded fly does
lecher in my sight. Let copulation thrive, for
Gloucester's bastard son was kinder to his father
than my daughters got 'tween the lawful sheets.
To't, luxury, pell-mell, for I lack soldiers.
Behold yond simp'ring dame,
Whose face between her forks presages snow,
That minces virtue and does shake the head
To hear of pleasure's name—
The fitchew, nor the soiled horse, goes to 't with a more riotous
appetite. Down from the waist they are centaurs, though women all above. But to the girdle do the gods inherit; beneath is all the fiend's. There's hell, there's darkness, there is the sulphurous pit; burning, scalding, stench, consumption! Fie, fie, fie, pah, pah! Give me an ounce of civet, good apothecary; sweeten my imagination. There's money for thee.
GLOUCESTER O, let me kiss that hand!
LEAR Let me wipe it first; it smells of mortality.
GLOUCESTER O ruined piece of nature, this great world
Shall so wear out to naught. Dost thou know me?
LEAR I remember thine eyes well enough. Dost thou squinny at me?
No, do thy worst, blind Cupid, I'll not love.
Read thou this challenge. Mark but the penning of it.
GLOUCESTER Were all thy letters suns, I could not see.
EDGAR (aside) I would not take this from report. It is,
And my heart breaks at it.
LEAR Read.
GLOUCESTER What, with the case of eyes?
LEAR Oh ho, are you there with me? No eyes in your head, nor no money in your purse? Your eyes are in a heavy case, your purse in a light, yet you see how this world goes.
GLOUCESTER I see it feelingly.
LEAR What, art mad? A man may see how this world goes with no eyes. Look with thine ears. See how yond justice rails upon yond simple thief. Hark in thine ear. Change places and, handy-dandy, which is the justice, which is the thief? Thou hast seen a farmer's dog bark at a beggar?
GLOUCESTER Ay, sir.
LEAR And the creature run from the cur? There thou might'st behold the great image of authority: a dog's obeyed in office.
Thou, rascal beadle, hold thy bloody hand!
Why dost thou lash that whore? Strip thy own back.
Thou hotly lusts to use her in that kind
For which thou whipp'st her. The usurer hangs the cozener.
Through tattered clothes small vices do appear;
Robes and furred gowns hide all. Plate sin with gold,
And the strong lance of justice hurtless breaks.
Arm it in rags, a pygmy's straw does pierce it.
None does offend, none, I say, none; I'll able 'em.
Take that of me, my friend, who have the power

To seal th' accuser's lips. Get thee glass eyes,
And like a scurvy politician seem
To see the things thou dost not. Now, now, now, now.
Pull off my boots. Harder, harder. So.
EDGAR (aside) O, matter and impertinency mixed,
Reason in madness!
LEAR If thou wilt weep my fortunes, take my eyes.
I know thee well enough; thy name is Gloucester.
Thou must be patient. We came crying hither;
Thou know'st the first time that we smell the air
We wawl and cry. I will preach to thee: mark me.
GLOUCESTER Alack, alack the day!
LEAR When we are born, we cry that we are come
To this great stage of fools.—This a good block.
It were a delicate stratagem to shoe
A troop of horse with felt. I'll put 't in proof,
And when I have stol'n upon these son-in-laws,
Then kill, kill, kill, kill, kill, kill!