England in 1594. Richard Burbage played most of the lead roles, including Hamlet, Othello, King Lear, and Macbeth, while Shakespeare himself performed some of the secondary roles. The company became the King's Men in 1603 when King James I ascended the throne and became the company's patron.

Ans to Q No 2: *Hamlet,Macbeth, Othello,* and *King Lear* are the greatest tragedies of Shakespeare. Why Shakespeare turned to these darker and more serious themes like one can find in the tragedies is widely debated by scholars today.But all agree that these plays established Shakespeare'sfame and place in the English world.

Ans to Q No 3: William Shakespeare's life in England is to be studied in connection with the reign of Queen Elizabeth I (1558–1603) James I(1603-1625). Both were the patrons of Shakespeare in many ways. For example, in 1603, Shakespeare's reputation earned him the sponsorship of James I, who requested one play performance per month.

Ans to Q No 4: Middle comedies like *Love's Labour's Lost, A Midsummer Night's Dream,The Merchant of Venice*, tragic plays like *Romeo and Juliet*, history plays like *Richard II*, the two parts of *Henry IV* and *Henry V*, comedies include *Much Ado About Nothing*, *As You Like It* and *Twelfth Night,* problem plays like *Measure for Measure*, *Troilus and Cressida*, and *All's Well That Ends Well,* tragedies like *Hamlet*, *Othelo*, *King Lear* and *Macbeth,* romance or tragi comedies like *Cymbeline*, *The Winter'sTale* and *TheTempest*.

Ans to Q No 5: One of the basic sources of *Hamlet* is a twelfth-century story of Amleth in Saxo Grammaticus's *Historiae Danicae* (1514). Another source is François de Belleforest's story published in his *Histoires Tragiques* (1570), Shakespeare is also stated to have been influenced by Thomas Kyd's *The Spanish Tragedy.*

Ans to Q No 6: *Hamlet* follows six-step tragic pattern: Dilemma, Wrong Choice, Suffering, Perception, Death, and Restoration to Order.



4.9 MODEL QUESTIONS

Q 1: Discuss the contributions of William Shakespeare to the world of English Theatre.

Q 2: Make a summary of the play *Hamlet* and try to find out what happened to the protagonist by the end of the play.

Q 3: Discuss some of the important sources of the play *Hamlet*?

Q 4: Hamlet is considered to be one of the most important tragedies of Shakespeare. Discuss the characteristics of tragedy implicit in the play.

Q 5: State the significance of the play-within-a-play in the pattern of the play *Hamlet.*