TEMA

44

Shakespeare and His Age. His Most Representative Works

Shakespeare y su época. Obras más representativas.

§ NOVIEMBRE DE 2026

Material de elaboración propia a partir de las fuentes oficiales que se citan al final del tema. No es un temario oficial ni sustituye a la normativa publicada.

Índice

1. INTRODUCTION

2. SHAKESPEARE'S AGE: THE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXT

- 2.1. The Tudor and Stuart Monarchies
- 2.2. Religion, Learning and Society

3. THE ELIZABETHAN AND JACOBEAN THEATRE

- 3.1. Companies, Patrons and Audiences
- 3.2. The Playhouses
- 3.3. Printing and Publication

4. SHAKESPEARE'S LIFE AND CAREER

5. THE MOST REPRESENTATIVE WORKS

- 5.1. The Poems and the Sonnets
- 5.2. The History Plays
- 5.3. The Comedies
- 5.4. The Tragedies
- 5.5. The Late Romances

6. SHAKESPEARE AMONG HIS CONTEMPORARIES AND HIS LEGACY

7. PEDAGOGICAL AND DIDACTIC IMPLICATIONS

8. CONCLUSION

Fuentes

1. INTRODUCTION

"He was not of an age, but for all time!" With these words Ben Jonson, Shakespeare's friend and rival, praised him in the verses that open the First Folio of 1623. Jonson's line contains the whole of Topic 44 in miniature: Shakespeare belongs to an age, the England of Elizabeth I and James I, and yet he has outlived it. Welcome to Topic 44: Shakespeare and His Age. His Most Representative Works. In order to address it, I will divide the topic into six main sections. Firstly, I will outline the historical and cultural context of his age. Secondly, I will examine the Elizabethan and Jacobean theatre. Thirdly, I will review his life. Fourthly, I will analyse his most representative works. Fifthly, I will place him among his contemporaries and trace his reception. Finally, I will reflect on the pedagogical and didactic implications of this content within our current educational framework.

Before moving on, I would like to mention the sources consulted for the preparation of this topic. These include: Andrew Gurr's The Shakespearean Stage 1574-1642, published by Cambridge University Press; Stanley Wells and Lena Cowen Orlin's edited volume Shakespeare: An Oxford Guide, published by Oxford University Press; Stephen Greenblatt's Will in the World: How Shakespeare Became Shakespeare; and Jonathan Bate's The Genius of Shakespeare, as well as the online resources of the Folger Shakespeare Library, the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and the Royal Shakespeare Company. I have also drawn on the LOMLOE (Organic Law 3/2020), Real Decreto 217/2022 and 243/2022, and Decreto 110/2022 and 109/2022 of the Autonomous Community of Extremadura.