

William Shakespeare  
Let me not to the marriage of true minds  
More challenging questions!

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1. Let me not to the marriage of true minds  
Admit impediments. Love is not love  
Which alters when it alteration finds,  
Or bends with the remover to remove.
  - The poet speaks about a "marriage of true minds". Is he actually referring to marriage at all or does he have something else in mind? (4)
  - What does the poet mean when he speaks about "impediments" to a marriage? (4)
  - Would you agree that "love is not love | Which alters when it alteration finds, | Or bends with the remover to remove"? Justify your answer. (4)
  
2. O no! it is an ever-fixed mark  
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;  
It is the star to every wandering bark,  
Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.
  - Are the nautical images -- storms, lighthouses, stars -- valid as images of love? Explain. (6)
  
3. Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks  
Within his bending sickle's compass come.
  - When the poet speaks of "Time's fool", is he saying that love is not an idiot? Explain. (4)
  - Why should "rosy lips and cheeks" within Time's "bending sickle's compass come"? (4)
  
4. Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,  
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.
  - Explain the image that the poet is using here. (4)
  - Comment on the image "the edge of doom". (4)

GENERAL QUESTION

5. In our modern age of quick marriages and sometimes quicker divorces, why would you think this sonnet is an important one to contemplate? (10)

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