



## BRAINWARE UNIVERSITY

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Term End Examination 2024-2025

Programme – B.A.(Eng)-Hons-2020/B.A.(Eng)-Hons-2021/B.A.(Eng)-Hons-2022

Course Name – Modern European Drama

Course Code - BELS502

( Semester V )

Full Marks : 60

Time : 2:30 Hours

[The figure in the margin indicates full marks. Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.]

### Group-A

(Multiple Choice Type Question)

1 x 15=15

1. Choose the correct alternative from the following :

(i) Name the founder of the naturalist movement.

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|-----------------|---------------|
| a) Victor Hugo  | b) Emile Zola |
| c) Henrik Ibsen | d) G. B. Shaw |

(ii) Assess the following statements and choose the correct option Statement I: The 1870s were dominated by strict Victorian social codes and laws that severely restricted the rights of all women, and married women in particular. Statement II: 'A Doll's House' is based on the life of Ibsen's family friend Laura Kieler, whose actions inspired the story of Nora's secret debt.

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|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| a) I is true but II is false | b) I is false but II is true |
| c) Both are true             | d) Both are false            |

(iii) Cite which cannot be inferred as one of the themes in Ibsen's 'A Doll's House'.

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|----------------------|----------------|
| a) Love and marriage | b) Money       |
| c) Gender roles      | d) Nationalism |

(iv) Recall the contributions of Helene Weigel and Bertolt Brecht to the German theatre scene

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| a) They promoted the revival of classical theatre  | b) They promoted the use of the theatre of cruelty to appeal to the audience's unconscious desires |
| c) They created the Berliner Ensemble, a theatre company that sought to turn theatre into a tool to instigate revolution | d) They promoted the audience's identification with the characters on stage                        |

(v) Locate from your understanding of Scene 1 of Mother Courage and Her Children, which of the following is true of the character of Courage.

- a) She is a courageous lady who places great value on honour and justice.
- b) She embodies the stereotypes associated with motherhood particularly in her tendency to cry for the innocent soldiers who were dying due to the war.
- c) She is practical and war-hardened and does what she has to in order to survive and keep her family safe.
- d) She is a meek and submissive woman who begs the sergeant to rescue her family since she is herself incapable of getting anything done.
- (vi) Identify the significance of the Chaplin's reply to the General in Scene II of Mother Courage?
- a) The Chaplin's hoped the people would stick to the values of their religion and stay merciful even in the face of misery just like Christ who forgave the ones who crucified him.
- b) The Chaplin manipulates the word of God for his own advantage, showing how even religion is nothing but blind ideology to keep the masses under the control of the ruling class.
- c) The Chaplin said religion matters little to him all he needs during war is a safe place to stay and food to warm his belly showing that during war lofty philosophies are useless.
- d) The Chaplin said to kill or be killed was the motto of the war and that is what God asks us to do so there was no harm in killing people during the war.
- (vii) Choose the correct statement: Statement 1: Mother Courage gives in to the dream of attaining fame in war by making a martyr out of her son and sends him off to war. Statement 2: As Courage's desperation makes her bargain about the price of belts she is unaware that her son's life is also sold off at the price of an old belt buckle.
- a) Both 1 & 2
- b) Only 2
- c) Only 1
- d) None of these
- (viii) Recall which of the following is the significance of the scene in Mother Courage and Her Children where the sergeant goes on asking the peasants for their papers of citizenship.
- a) It shows that the sergeant is dedicated towards doing his job
- b) It shows how the peasants are occupying the land without proper authorisation and are a danger that needs to be neutralised
- c) It shows how everyone has to sacrifice their lives for war in order to keep it going
- d) It shows how nationality, loyalty, honour are all tools to manipulate people in order to fight the war for the more powerful people
- (ix) Identify which of the following is ironic about Elif's determination to model himself on the King.
- a) Elif is better than the King since he risks his life everyday for the welfare of the soldiers.
- b) Elif does not understand the King is dead and their country has descended into chaos.
- c) Elif has never seen the King and he doesn't know what kind of person he is but he still wants to be like the King as he adores the fame and power that comes with it.
- d) Elif does not realise that the King loves heroes like him and considers them to be his role model.
- (x) Recall which of the following is a significance of Yvette's calm response at the news of the Catholic invasion.
- a) It shows that Yvette was a Catholic supporter.
- b) It shows that Yvette had learned how to be calm and collected during moments of tension.
- c) It shows that Yvette had high hopes that the war will come to an end and there will be peace for all.
- d) It shows that Yvette had been desensitized to the violence of war and she knew she would have to continue her business no matter what.

- (xi) Identify which of the following is the reason why Courage goes out to buy the Catholic flag after the Catholic invasion.
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| <p>a) Courage hopes that pretending to support the Catholics will be good for her business and keep her family safe.</p> <p>c) Courage wants to comfort Swiss Cheese whose father was a Catholic.</p> | <p>b) Courage feels that the Catholics are truly the ones doing the work of God.</p> <p>d) Courage hopes that the Catholics will be able to establish peace in the land.</p> |
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- (xii) Determine which of the following is true of the tragic hero's impact on society according to Miller.
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|--|---|
| <p>a) The tragic hero scares everyone from ever speaking up against powerful people</p> <p>c) The tragic hero shows that protesting against wrong doing will only land others in trouble</p> | <p>b) The tragic hero by not bowing down before power allows others to question and speak up against misdeeds</p> <p>d) The tragic hero preaches conformity</p> |
|--|---|
- (xiii) Identify the reason why Nora borrowed money from Krogstad.
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|---|--|
| <p>a) To buy expensive gifts for her children</p> <p>c) To invest in a business venture</p> | <p>b) To pay off a debt that she has kept secret</p> <p>d) To help Torvald overcome his sickness</p> |
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- (xiv) Identify by what name does Torvald call Nora in the first Act of the play 'A Doll's House'.
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|---|---|
| <p>a) Little lark</p> <p>c) Little doll</p> | <p>b) Squirrel</p> <p>d) All of these</p> |
|---|---|
- (xv) Choose the significance of the tarantella dance scene in a Doll's House.
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|---|---|
| <p>a) It represents Nora's desire for attention and admiration</p> <p>c) It is a meaningless, decorative moment in the play</p> | <p>b) It symbolizes Nora's rebellion against societal norms</p> <p>d) It signifies Nora's desire to escape her responsibilities</p> |
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#### Group-B

(Short Answer Type Questions)

3 x 5=15

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| 2. Explain the hypocrisy of the Chaplain with regards to his involvement in war.                  | (3) |
| 3. Define realism. Describe two types of realism.   | (3) |
| 4. Develop the idea of how Courage's greed and desperation leads her to lose her children to war. | (3) |
| 5. Explain the cultural roots of absurd theatre.  | (3) |
| 6. Analyze the symbolic significance of the tree in Beckett's Waiting for Godot.                  | (3) |

OR

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| Evaluate the role of the Lucky-Pozzo duo in Beckett's Waiting for Godot. | (3) |
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#### Group-C

(Long Answer Type Questions)

5 x 6=30

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| 7. Evaluate the hypocrisy of the peasants in the scene of Katrin's death in Mother Courage and Her Children. | (5) |
| 8. Analyse whether A Doll's House can be considered as a typical problem play.                               | (5) |

9. Elucidate the details that can be inferred from women characters in A Doll's House about the contemporary society. (5)
10. Explain how Beckett's approach in Waiting for Godot is unconventional and avant garde. (5)
11. Explain how the character of Nora in Ibsen's A Doll's House offers a critique of traditional roles of women. (5)
12. Write a critical account on the characteristics of a tragic hero in the Modern age with reference to Arthur Miller's 'Tragedy and the Common Man'. (5)

OR

Hypothesize the ways in which tragedy becomes a transformative genre according to Arthur Miller. (5)

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