



BRAINWARE UNIVERSITY

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Term End Examination 2024-2025
Programme – M.A.(ENG)-2022/M.A.(ENG)-2024
Course Name – Literature of 20th Century II
Course Code - MELS204
(Semester II)

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) Recall Ionesco's definition of absurd as "that which is devoid of purpose... Cut off from his religious, metaphysical, and transcendental roots, man is lost..." comes in an essay on which author.
- a) Camus
b) Beckett
c) Kafka
d) Pinter
- (ii) Identify the figure who has coined the phrase, 'The Theatre of the Absurd'.
- a) Kenneth Tynan
b) Terence Rattigan
c) Bertolt Brecht
d) Martin Esslin
- (iii) Identify the features of language used in the theatre of absurd. i: meaningless ii: repetitive iii: punctured with pause and silence iv: enigmatic
- a) Only iii
b) i, ii and iii
c) ii, iii and iv
d) i, ii, iii and iv
- (iv) Identify the dramatist among the following playwrights of the theatre of absurd who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2005.
- a) Samuel Beckett
b) Harold Pinter
c) Arthur Adamov
d) Jean Genet
- (v) From whose play did Wardle select the term 'Comedy of Menace' for Pinter's plays?
- a) Harold Pinter
b) David Campton
c) Nigel Dennis
d) N. F. Simpson
- (vi) Identify who coined the term 'comedy of menace' to describe Pinter's plays.
- a) Kenneth Tynan
b) Irving Wardle

- c) Terence Rattigan d) Martin Esslin
- (vii) Which of the following describes specific characteristics of Pinter's plays? I: In a typical Pinter play, we meet people defending themselves against intrusion or their own impulses by entrenching themselves in a reduced and controlled existence. II: His plays are just and lively image of human condition. III: Another principal theme is the volatility and elusiveness of the past. Examine the statements and choose the correct alternative.
- a) I and II b) II and III
c) I and III d) I, II and III
- (viii) "A tattered coat upon a stick"- Select the figure of speech used by Yeats in the abovementioned line of "Sailing to Byzantium."
- a) Metonymy b) Alliteration
c) Metaphor d) Personification
- (ix) "One thinks of all the hands/That are raising dingy shades/In a thousand furnished rooms." Which figure of speech is used in the abovementioned line of "Preludes." Write the correct answer.
- a) Personification b) Metonymy
c) Synecdoche d) Metaphor
- (x) Infer who can be regarded as the outsider in Pinter's *The Birthday Party*.
- a) Stanley b) Meg-Petey
c) Goldberg-McCann d) Lulu
- (xi) Evaluate the statements with reference to the opening Act of *The Birthday Party* and infer the correct option.
- a) Petey appears as a henpecked husband. b) Meg tries to seduce Stanley.
c) Both d) None
- (xii) Yeats' "Sailing to Byzantium" is about _____. Infer the correct answer.
- a) regenerating the art and culture that existed in Byzantium. b) Irish revolutionaries
c) Irish Culture d) All
- (xiii) Identify the season suggested in the first stanza of Eliot's "Preludes." State the correct answer.
- a) Winter b) Spring
c) Autumn d) Summer
- (xiv) Identify which of the following poetic techniques is most evident in "Preludes."
- a) Irony b) Satire
c) Imagism d) Dramatic monologue
- (xv) Who is the lover of moderation and has great influence over the Temperance Society in *An Enemy of the People*? Select the correct answer.
- a) Billing b) Morten Kill
c) Hovstad d) Aslaksen

Group-B

(Short Answer Type Questions)

3 x 5=15

2. Write a short note on Pinteresque outsider. (3)
3. Write a brief note justifying the significance of the title "Daddy" by Sylvia Plath. (3)

4. Analyse Yeats's use of nature, diction, and literary devices in "Sailing to Byzantium". (3)
5. Examine the notion of 'absurdism'. (3)
6. How does Ibsen critique the role of the press in shaping public opinion in *An Enemy of the People*? Write with reference to Ibsen's play. (3)

OR

Write a brief note on the game of Blindman's Buff in Pinter's *The Birthday Party*. (3)

Group-C

(Long Answer Type Questions)

5 x 6=30

7. Explain the socio-political scenario of the twentieth century which was conducive to the rise of absurd theatre. (5)
8. "Daddy, I have had to kill you./ You died before I had time—/ Marble-heavy, a bag full of God,/ Ghastly statue with one gray toe/ Big as a Frisco seal" (5)
- Analyse the above mentioned lines with reference to Sylvia Plath's "Daddy".
9. Is a psychoanalytic reading of *The Birthday Party* possible? Justify. (5)
10. Evaluate the parody of celebration in Pinter's *The Birthday Party*. (5)
11. Discuss the character of Dr. Stockmann from Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People*. (5)
12. Analyse Eliot's "Preludes" as a 'Criticism of Life'. (5)

OR

(5)

Analyze the significance of art and its role in achieving spiritual transcendence in "Sailing to Byzantium".
