



BRAINWARE UNIVERSITY

Term End Examination 2023

Programme – M.A.(ENG)-2022

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) Select the figure who directed The Birthday Party when it was first dramatised in 1958.
- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| a) Harold Pinter | b) Peter Wood |
| c) David Baron | d) Mel Gussow |
- (ii) Deduce which of the following is a reason that the Boy kills himself in Six Characters in Search of an Author?
- | | |
|--|---|
| a) He hates his parents | b) He hates the manager and wants to create a new story |
| c) He has incestuous desires towards his mother and resents his father | d) He is tired of this game and brings his story to an end by taking his own life |
- (iii) Select the play not by Harold Pinter.
- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| a) The Room | b) Old Times |
| c) A Night Out | d) Happy Days |
- (iv) Arrange the plays of Pinter in the proper chronological order and choose the correct alternative: A: The Homecoming B: The Room C: The Caretaker D: Betrayal
- | | |
|---------|---------|
| a) ABCD | b) BDAC |
| c) BCDA | d) BCAD |
- (v) Judge which of the following is cited by Miller as the possible reasons for the scarcity of tragedies in the Modern age, all of which then he goes on to refute?
- | | |
|---|---|
| a) The paucity of heroes in the Modern age | b) Science and skepticism has made men unfit for perceiving the grandeur of tragedy |
| c) Tragedy is above the common man or the common man is below tragedy | d) All of the above |

- (vi) Infer in Endgame which of the following might be a reason why Hamm hesitates to end his pain and suffering?
- a) Hamm wants to spend a few more years with Clov and his family
- b) Hamm cannot gather enough courage to commit suicide since like Hamlet Hamm is afraid that greater unimaginable torment lies ahead of him in the land beyond life and he wants to hang on to life, a known enemy.
- c) Hamm is afraid of abandoning his parents to a cruel and unfeeling world
- d) Hamm wants to finish writing his book and leave behind a legacy for others to remember him by
- (vii) Identify which of the following goes against the spirit of absurdism.
- a) Hopelessness
- b) Chaos
- c) Clarity
- d) Uncertainty
- (viii) Select the period in which the absurd theatre comes into being.
- a) 1920s-30s
- b) 1940s-50s
- c) 1930s-40s
- d) 1910-20s
- (ix) Locate who of the following is not a playwright of the theatre of absurd.
- a) Luigi Pinrandello
- b) Jean Genet
- c) Harold Pinter
- d) Arthur Adamov
- (x) Cite which of the following characters die in Endgame?
- a) Hamm
- b) Nagg
- c) Clov
- d) Nell
- (xi) The roots of absurd theatre can be traced to _____. I: Dream plays II: Mad scenes in Elizabethan drama III: vaudeville and slapstick comedy IV: Renaissance paintings Infer the correct combination.
- a) I, II and IV
- b) II, III and IV
- c) I, II and III
- d) II and III
- (xii) Compute which according to Pirandello is a characteristic of symbolic art?
- a) Art in which the realities of human condition are transfigured into symbols
- b) Art in which the presence of the author is removed to showcase a sense of impersonality
- c) Art in which all spontaneous movement is lost in favour of presenting a far-fetched allegory
- d) Art in which the narrative is far removed from common life
- (xiii) In The Birthday Party the broken drum that symbolises mental instability represents _____. Examine the situation and infer the correct option.
- a) Goldberg
- b) Lulu
- c) Stanley
- d) Meg
- (xiv) Examine the reason of Stanley's mental breakdown.
- a) The sudden entrance of two more boarders
- b) Being forced to confront his past sins and delusions
- c) The attempted rape of Lulu
- d) Meg's amorous advances
- (xv) Chart which of the following is not a reason provided by the father as an explanation to the manager regarding their strange predicament?
- a) The author who created them was no longer able to or materially wished to put them into a work of art
- b) One needs to be performing accomplished deeds to live on as a character
- c) The character one born cannot die and will survive even when its creator is gone
- d) The matrix of fantasy is a fecund one that constantly supplies them with gems of life

and keeps them alive in the memories of the readers

Group-B

(Short Answer Type Questions)

3 x 5=15

2. Infer the thematic significance of the opening episode of *The Birthday Party*. (3)
3. Construct a short note on the significance of Hamm's statement to Clov in 'Endgame' where he said, "Is it time for my painkillers yet?" (3)
4. Assess the significance of intertextual references in the traumatic vision of Sylvia Plath's 'Daddy' (3)
5. Describe the characteristics of an absurd play. (3)
6. Analyze the symbolism of water in Eliot's *The Wasteland*. (3)

OR

With reference to Yeats' 'The Second Coming' analyse how Time is used in the poem. (3)

Group-C

(Long Answer Type Questions)

5 x 6=30

7. Evaluate the diverse allusions in Eliot's *The Wasteland*. (5)
8. Assess how Pinter uses pause and silence to convey meaning through unspoken words. (5)
9. Recall the way in which Arthur Miller reconfigures the Aristotelian notion of tragedy in 'Tragedy and the Common Man' (5)
10. Articulate the significance of Hamm's physical body as an embodiment of the human condition in Beckett's 'Endgame' (5)
11. Evaluate the relationship between Meg and Stanley in Pinter's *The Birthday Party*. (5)
12. Dissect the role of the Mother and the Step Daughter in the larger thematic vision of Pirandello's 'Six Characters in Search of an Author' using the lens of Feminist criticism. (5)

OR

Deduce the significance of Plath's intertwining of myth and history in chronicling of her private (5) sorrows in 'Daddy'
