



## BRAINWARE UNIVERSITY

Term End Examination 2023  
Programme – B.A.(Eng)-Hons-2020  
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) Estimate the option that does not refer to the correct role played by Mother Courage in the war
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| a) She was a war widow who had lost her husband to the war and was struggling to survive   | b) She was a canteen woman who chased the war proceedings and tried to make money by selling food to the soldiers                          |
| c) She had a habit of pilfering articles of clothing from dead soldiers and then selling it at high prices later as a secondary source of income | d) She had a steady supply of rum and cheap wine to entice the soldiers into paying for a final drink before going off to fight in the war |
- (ii) Which of the following options explains the reason why Brecht insists that the drama must be set at a historical time that is far removed from the current reality?
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| a) Brecht wanted the audience to be so far removed from current reality that no immersion, no identification with the happenings on stage could be possible | b) Brecht was impressed by the movement of history towards progress and revolution                          |
| c) Brecht wanted the audience to be aware of their culture and history  | d) Brecht wanted the audience to contrast the happiness of their present times with the sadness of the past |
- (iii) Statement I: Realism stressed on the truthful treatment of the common and everyday life. Statement II: Realism is nothing but the reaction of the past, a true picture of life against the rosy picture of Romanticists. Identify the correct combination.
- |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| a) I is true but II is false | b) I is false but II is true |
| c) Both are true             | d) Both are false            |
- (iv) Which of the following goes against the spirit of absurdism? Identify.
- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| a) Hopelessness | b) Chaos       |
| c) Clarity      | d) Uncertainty |



- (v) Ionesco's description of the 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
- (vi) Correlate and analyse what is not achieved by The Ghost Sonata's slow inward movement when it comes to the spatial presence of the Student
- a) As the acts progresses the Student moves from a wider to a narrower space, from the street to the Drawing Room and finally to the Hyacinth Room signifying a Dantean journey in reverse- from paradise to the depths of hell  
b) The unity of space is preserved in the final act through the introduction of Bocklin's Toten-Insei
- c) Strindberg's use of space is quite cinematic as the gradual revelation of the rotten foundations of the house is presented visually by a zoom from act to act towards the center of the house.  
d) By synchronizing this inward movement with the Student's increasingly negative view of life, Strindberg indicates a connection between life experience and denial of life
- (vii) Choose the correct statement with regard to realist theatre.
- a) stage settings (locations) and props are often outdoors and surreal  
b) dialogue is not heightened for effect, but that of everyday speech (vernacular)  
c) Russian playwright Anton Chekhov is considered the father of modern realism in the theatre  
d) None of the above
- (viii) Debate 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 and tells the General that Jesus was able to multiply bread from one loaf since it was peace time, what he would have to do during war is not known so we must proceed as required, 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
- (ix) What does the black cross on Dr. Rank's calling card in Doll's House establish?
- a) He is in love with Nora  
b) He is in a wild mood  
c) He is deeply religious  
d) He is on the verge of death
- (x) Select the proper combination with reference to the plot structure in absurd theatre.  
i: anti-realistic ii: unconventional iii: linear
- a) Only iii  
b) i, ii and iii  
c) ii and iii  
d) i and ii
- (xi) Assess the following statements and choose the correct option Statement I: The beginning of the play introduces the audience to the characters' bleak world, which is filled with all kinds of suffering, from the more trivial to the more serious. Statement II: The Christian idea of repentance acquires a special significance for Vladimir and Estragon.



- a) I is true but II is false  
 b) I is false but II is true  
 c) Both are true  
 d) Both are false
- (xii) Choose the correct statement: Statements 1: The Ghosts at the supper sit and put on an act of normalcy cloaking their true selves by a blanket of civility and at this point pretension has become so natural that even when the truth is revealed they keep on acting Statement 2: The Mummy forcing the Old Man to admit his sins and repent is a symbolic unmasking of the true self, a shedding off the dead skin that has numbed off the characters from the world and from their realisation of the consequences of their action. By coming out of her self-imposed prison the Mummy allows the others to see their true selves and forces them to live/die with that knowledge
- a) Both statements are true but not related to each other  
 b) Both statements are true and related to each other  
 c) Only 1 is true  
 d) Only 2 is true
- (xiii) Rearrange the following works in their correct chronological order of publication: A Doll's House, The Wild Duck, Ghosts, Hedda Gabler
- a) A Doll's House, Hedda Gabler, The Wild Duck, Ghosts  
 b) A Doll's House, The Wild Duck, Ghosts, Hedda Gabler  
 c) A Doll's House, Ghosts, Hedda Gabler, The Wild Duck  
 d) A Doll's House, Ghosts, The Wild Duck, Hedda Gabler
- (xiv) Recognise which one of the following notable directors have not staged The Ghost Sonata?
- a) Max Reinhardt  
 b) Antonin Artaud  
 c) Ingar Bergman  
 d) Roger Blin
- (xv) Estimate the reason for the hostile reaction of the Milkmaid to the Student's request in the opening scene of The Ghost Sonata
- a) In the ongoing famine the Milkmaid is horrified of letting go of the water cup for the fear of dying of thirst so she refuses to share and looks on in disdain  
 b) The Milkmaid is disgusted by the student's callousness where instead of asking the rich people for water he is approaching a poor milkmaid and demanding water from her knowing full well that is the last bit of water left in her cup  
 c) The Milkmaid recognises the youth from her dalliances in the past and is ashamed of herself and her present condition which makes her shrink away from his presence  
 d) The response of the Old Man makes it clear that the Milkmaid is a ghost who is forced to repeat her days endlessly, she is horrified because a living human is able to perceive her presence

### Group-B

(Short Answer Type Questions)

3 x 5=15

2. Illustrate how Courage's name itself is ironic and a sign of the desperation and devastation of war time? (3)
3. Illustrate the dramatic significance of Dr. Rank's character in Ibsen's A Doll's House. (3)
4. Evaluate the role of the Luck-Pozzo duo in Beckett's Waiting for Godot. (3)
5. In your interpretation what is the symbolism of the broken down manor in *The Ghost Sonata*? (3)

OR

Who were the contributors that shaped the rise of realism in the 19th century? Explain. (3)

6. "No notion of word of honour, loyalty, faith, sense of duty". Annotate (3)

OR

"No need for it to be my kids." Annotate (3)

**Group-C**

(Long Answer Type Questions)

5 x 6=30

7. Debate on the theme of degeneration, animality & vampirism in *The Ghost Sonata* (5)

8. Illustrate the idea of masks and disfigurement as a sign of spiritual decay in *The Ghost Sonata* (5)

9. Describe the characteristics of realist theatre. (5)

10. Examine the concept of 'New Woman' in Ibsen's *A Doll's House* (5)

OR

Explain the significance of the title, *A Doll's House*. (5)

11. Evaluate how the Cook acts as a doppelganger of the Director in *The Ghost Sonata* (5)

OR

Evaluate how Katrin is the strongest character in *Mother Courage* (5)

12. Beckett's approach in *Waiting for Godot* is unconventional and avant garde. Evaluate. (5)

OR

Compare and contrast the characters of Vladimir and Estragon in Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*. (5)

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