



BRAINWARE UNIVERSITY

Term End Examination 2025-2026

Programme – B.A.(Eng)-Hons-2023

Course Name – Modern European Drama

Course Code - BEN60116

(Semester VI)

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) Explain how George Bernard Shaw extends realist drama beyond Ibsen's social critique.
 - a) By developing drama of ideas
 - b) By using poetic symbolism
 - c) By rejecting realism
 - d) By emphasizing ritual
- (ii) Explain why Epic Theatre developed as a critique of bourgeois realism.
 - a) It lacked music
 - b) It discouraged spectacle
 - c) It ignored history
 - d) It masked social contradictions
- (iii) Apply Brecht's theory to determine the expected role of the audience in Epic Theatre.
 - a) Passive spectators
 - b) Emotional participants
 - c) Critical observers
 - d) Moral sympathizers
- (iv) Identify the playwright most centrally associated with the Theatre of the Absurd.
 - a) George Bernard Shaw
 - b) Bertolt Brecht
 - c) Samuel Beckett
 - d) August Strindberg
- (v) Differentiate Epic Theatre from Symbolist theatre in terms of audience engagement.
 - a) Rational critique
 - b) Mystical contemplation
 - c) Emotional absorption
 - d) Aesthetic pleasure
- (vi) Name the French symbolist dramatist who most powerfully influenced the writing of Antonin Artaud.
 - a) Arthur Rimbaud
 - b) Alfred Jarry
 - c) Louis Aragon
 - d) Pierre Bonnard
- (vii) Recall the name of the playwright of *The Ghost Sonata*.
 - a) August Strindberg
 - b) Henrik Ibsen
 - c) Bertolt Brecht
 - d) Samuel Beckett
- (viii) Define the term "Intimate Theatre" as used by August Strindberg.
 - a) A large proscenium theatre
 - b) An small opera house
 - c) A musical concert hall
 - d) A theatre for a smaller audiences

- (ix) Apply your understanding to explain why the Student enters the Colonel's house in *The Ghost Sonata*.
- a) Because Hummel guides him there b) To investigate supernatural events
c) To seek employment d) To attend a celebration
- (x) Judge why the Old Man involves the Student in planning to meet the Colonel's household in *The Ghost Sonata*.
- a) To gain power through the Student b) To insult the Colonel
c) To learn about society d) To escape the house
- (xi) Establish how the Student's reaction to the Old Man's revelations about his father reflects his moral stance in *The Ghost Sonata*.
- a) He forgives Hummel instantly b) He remains indifferent
c) He applauds Hummel d) He questions Hummel's motives
- (xii) State what the Student was doing before he arrived at the apartment building in *The Ghost Sonata*.
- a) Helping at a collapsed building rescue b) Attending an opera
c) Sleeping at home d) Drinking at a tavern
- (xiii) Illustrate how placards function as an Epic Theatre tool in *Mother Courage and Her Children*.
- a) Decorates the stage b) Hides the action
c) Summarizes the scenes d) Lists the cast
- (xiv) Identify the two tramps who wait by the roadside in *Waiting for Godot*.
- a) Vladimir and Estragon b) Pozzo and Lucky
c) Hamm and Clov d) Krapp and Schit
- (xv) Illustrate how Artaud's theatre challenges Western realism in *Theatre and its Double*.
- a) By intensifying dialogue b) By privileging spectacle over text
c) By emphasizing plot structure d) By using naturalistic settings

Group-B

(Short Answer Type Questions)

3 x 5=15

2. Describe the physical and symbolic features of the "death screen" in *The Ghost Sonata*. (3)
3. State the symbolic importance of silence as expressed through Katrin's character in *Mother Courage and Her Children*. (3)
4. Explain the significance of the carrot, turnip and radish exchange between Vladimir and Estragon in Act I of *Waiting for Godot*. (3)
5. Describe Artaud's metaphor of the plague and its significance for theatrical practice in *The Theater and Its Double*. (3)
6. Analyze how war is presented as a business enterprise in *Mother Courage and Her Children*. (3)

OR

Evaluate how *Mother Courage and Her Children* exemplifies the Brechtian concept of theatre as a medium for social instruction. (3)

Group-C

(Long Answer Type Questions)

5 x 6=30

7. Define 'Theatre of the Absurd' and state some of its prominent features. (5)
8. Determine how the theme of abandonment is expressed through the characters Swiss Cheese and Mother Courage in Brecht's *Mother Courage and Her Children*. (5)
9. Justify why *Waiting for Godot* is known as a 'tragicomedy'. (5)
10. Assess the characters of the servants and their significance in *The Ghost Sonata*. (5)
11. Define Antonin Artaud's concept of the "Double" as it operates in theatre. (5)
12. Argue how *The Ghost Sonata* seems to suggest that death is the only way out of pain. (5)

OR

Critique how in *Mother Courage and Her Children* the unending war takes a toll on the nation and the people.

(5)

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