

1 (Sem-5/FYUGP) ENG 41 MJ

2025

ENGLISH

(Major)

Paper : ENG0500104

(British Drama : Victorian to Postmodern)

Full Marks : 60

Time : 2½ hours

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks
for the questions*

1. Answer the following questions : 1×8=8

(a) Why are the mother and daughter standing under the portico of St. Paul's Church in the play, *Pygmalion*?

(b) Who is the main character in *Pygmalion*?

(c) What is the central theme of the play, *Murder in the Cathedral*?

(d) Critics often compare Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* with another play by Samuel Beckett. Write the name of the play.

(2)

- (e) Who is the author of *The Ash Girl*?
- (f) How old is Ash in *XYZ*?
- (g) Who is called the father of the problem play?
- (h) Who is the father of the Theatre of the Absurd?

2. Answer any six of the following questions :

2×6=12

- (a) What are the basic themes of *Pygmalion*?
- (b) What does Tom Stoppard think of Hamlet in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*?
- (c) Why is the play, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* considered absurdist?
- (d) Why was Episode 38 of Pokémon banned?
- (e) What is the story of *The Ash Girl*?
- (f) Mention two important themes of Wertebaker's plays.
- (g) What does avant-garde mean in literature?
- (h) What is the concept of realism in English literature?

(3)

- (i) What is discussion play or thesis play?
- (j) Define the term 'Theatre of Catastrophe' and give its aims.

3. Answer any four of the following questions :

5×4=20

- (a) Explain Eliot's use of Greek Tragedy shaping his play, *Murder in the Cathedral*. How does an understanding of tragedy help to inform the play's message?
- (b) Describe Eliza Doolittle's transformation throughout the play.
- (c) Discuss the theme of lost identity in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*.
- (d) Uncertainty is one of the major themes of *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*. How far is it true?
- (e) What is the plot of *The Ash Girl*?
- (f) Write a brief note on Expressionism.
- (g) Define Surrealism. Mention some of the major proponents of surrealism.
- (h) Explain the power of the chorus through any one act of the play, *Murder in the Cathedral*.

4. Answer any *two* of the following questions :

10×2=20

- (a) "*Pygmalion* is more than just a story of a flower girl's transformation. It is a social commentary." Discuss with reference to key scenes and characters.
- (b) The play, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* reflects the quest for meaning. Explain.
- (c) Discuss how the author reinterprets the traditional Cinderella story in *The Ash Girl*.
- (d) Discuss *Murder in the Cathedral* as a poetic drama.
- (e) Discuss Farce drama with examples. What is Comedy of Horrors in literature?

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