

M.A. Semester-3 Examination

501

English

March-2024

Time : 2-30 Hours]

[Max. Marks : 70

1. Analyze the key characteristics and themes of the Theatre of the Absurd as outlined by Martin Esslin. Discuss how these elements challenge traditional theatrical conventions. (14)

OR

Examine Martin Esslin's contribution to the understanding and appreciation of Absurdist Theatre. Provide examples from notable plays to support your argument. (14)

2. Discuss the thematic and stylistic elements of Harold Pinter's *Home Coming*. How do these elements reflect the broader characteristics of Pinter's work? (14)

OR

Analyze the use of language and silence in Harold Pinter's *Home Coming*. Discuss how these elements contribute to the play's overall impact. (14)

3. Evaluate the evolution of Modern American Drama from 1945 to 2000 as discussed by C.W.E. Bigsby. Highlight the key movements and playwrights that defined this era. (14)

OR

Discuss C.W.E. Bigsby's analysis of the socio-political influences on Modern American Drama between 1945 and 2000. How do these influences reflect in the works of notable playwrights of the era? (14)

4. Analyze the psychological and interpersonal dynamics explored in Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* Discuss how the characters embody the larger societal issues of the time. (14)

OR

Discuss the use of realism and absurdity in Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* Evaluate how these elements contribute to the play's enduring relevance. (14)

5. Attempt any seven out of twelve. (14)

1. Martin Esslin coined the term "Theatre of the Absurd" to describe a specific kind of ____.

a) Comedy b) Tragedy c) Dramatic Movement d) Playwright Collective

1. Harold Pinter's plays are known for their _____.
 a) Detailed set descriptions b) Prolific dialogue
 c) Pinteresque pauses d) Musical interludes
2. Which era does C.W.E. Bigsby's *Modern American Drama 1945-2000* primarily focus on?
 a) Victorian Era b) Elizabethan Era c) Modern Era d) Postmodern Era
3. Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* explores themes of _____.
 a. Marital discord b) Political unrest c) Economic disparity d) Social injustice
4. The term "Absurdism" in theater often refers to _____.
 a) Exaggerated comedic scenarios b) Existential themes and illogical circumstances
 c) Historical re-enactments d) Romantic narratives
5. Harold Pinter was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in the year _____.
 a) 2001 b) 2005 c) 2010 d) 2015
6. C.W.E. Bigsby's analysis of Modern American Drama includes discussion on the impact of _____.
 a) The Cold War b) The Renaissance
 c) The Industrial Revolution d) The French Revolution
7. The character of George in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* is _____.
 a) A professor b) A doctor c) A lawyer d) A soldier
8. Martin Esslin categorized which of the following playwrights as a key figure in the Theatre of the Absurd?
 a) Arthur Miller b) Samuel Beckett c) Tennessee Williams d) August Wilson
9. *The Homecoming* by Harold Pinter explores themes of _____.
 a) Family dynamics and power struggles b) Political ideologies
 c) Economic challenges d) Cultural assimilation
10. The primary focus of "Modern American Drama 1945-2000" by C.W.E. Bigsby is on _____.
 a) British drama b) American drama c) French drama d) German drama
11. The title *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* is _____.
 a) A literal reference b) A metaphorical reference
 c) A historical reference d) An allegorical reference
12. The setting of Harold Pinter's *Homecoming* is significant because it _____.
 a) Highlights familial tensions b) Reflects political ideologies
 c) Symbolizes economic disparity d) Represents cultural diversity