

MA Sem.-3 Examination

501

English

April-2025

Time : 2-30 Hours]

[Max. Marks : 70

1. Martin Esslin says that *Theatre of the Absurd* shows the confusion and meaninglessness of human life. Discuss this idea with reference to one or two absurdist plays. **14**

OR

1. Discuss Martin Esslin's interpretation of Samuel Beckett and his contribution to the Theatre of the Absurd. **14**
2. What is the significance of the title *The Homecoming*. How does it reflect the play's central themes. **14**

OR

2. How does Pinter portray gender roles in *The Homecoming*? What message is he trying to convey about men and women. **14**
3. Describe in detail the life and works of any two Modern American Dramatists. **14**

OR

3. Discuss in detail the major influences that shaped Modern American dramatists and their works. **14**
4. Discuss the theme of illusion versus reality in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*. How do the characters use illusions to cope with their lives? **14**

OR

4. Analyze Martha's character. How is she both strong and vulnerable? **14**
5. Attempt any seven MCQs: **14**
- (1) Which of the following best describes the tone of dialogue in *The Homecoming*?
- (A) Romantic and lyrical (B) Logical and straightforward
(C) Tense and ambiguous (D) Fast paced and humorous
- (2) The *Theatre of Absurd* is most closely associated with which philosophical movement?
- (A) Romanticism (B) Existentialism
(C) Marxism (D) Structuralism
- (3) What is Ruth's relationship with Teddy in *The Homecoming*?
- (A) Sister (B) Cousin
(C) Wife (D) Friend
- (4) Which of the following playwrights is not typically associated with the *Theatre of the Absurd*?
- (A) Samuel Beckett (B) Eugene Ionesco
(C) Arthur Miller (D) Harold Pinter
- (5) Who wrote *A Streetcar Named Desire*, one of the most influential American plays of the 20th century?
- (A) Edward Albee (B) Tennessee Williams
(C) Arthur Miller (D) Sam Shepherd
- (6) What is George's profession in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*?
- (A) Doctor (B) Novelist
(C) Professor of History (D) Psychologist
- (7) Who are Nick and Honey in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*?
- (A) George's coworkers (B) Martha's students
(C) Couple invited after the party (D) George's relatives

- (8) In what language was *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, originally written ?
- (A) French (B) German
(C) Italian (D) English
- (9) In which historical setting do *Mother Courage and Her Children* take place?
- (A) World War II (B) The American Civil War
(C) The Thirty Years' War (D) The Napoleonic Wars
- (10) Who is the protagonist of *The Little Clay Cart*?
- (A) King Shudraka (B) Vasantika
(C) Charudatta (D) Maitreyee
- (11) What dramatic style best describes *The Cherry Orchard*?
- (A) Absurdism (B) Naturalism
(C) Expressionism (D) Realism
- (12) Who wrote *The Balcony*?
- (A) Harold Pinter (B) Jean Genet
(C) Samuel Beckett (D) Tom Stoppard
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