

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 : $1 \times 8 = 8$

- (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.

- (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 Wertenbaker's plays.
- (g) What does avant-garde mean in literature?
- (h) What is the concept of realism in English literature?

(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)

4. Answer any two of the following questions :

$10 \times 2 = 20$

- (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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