

2019

ENGLISH

(Major)

Paper : 5.2

(Modern Drama—II)

Full Marks : 60

Time : 3 hours

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

SECTION—I

1. Answer any *three* of the following as directed : 1×3=3

(a) According to Sartre, _____ comes before essence.

(Fill in the blank)

(b) In which book did Camus diagnose “the human situation in a world of shattered beliefs”?

(c) *The Inside of His Head* was the first title of a play by Miller. Name the play.

(d) _____, a play by Miller focuses on the failure called *The Man Who Had All the Luck*.

(Fill in the blank)

2. Answer briefly any *three* of the following :

2×3=6

- (a) Why did Herbert Blau decide to stage *Waiting for Godot* for the San Quentin audience?
- (b) How did the Theatre of the Absurd differ from the Existentialist Theatre?
- (c) Why, according to Miller, was *Death of a Salesman* considered to be a pseudo-tragedy?
- (d) List two influences which, according to Miller, create the style of a play.

3. Why does Miller say that the dramatic form is a dynamic thing?

5

Or

What kind of critical reception did the first staging of *Waiting for Godot* at San Quentin receive?

4. "They can be judged only by the standards of the Theatre of the Absurd." What are the standards of the Theatre of the Absurd?

10

Or

"There is always an organic connection rather than a temperamental choice involved in the style in which a play is written and must be performed." (Miller)

Discuss with reference to Miller's 'Introduction' to the *Collected Plays*.

SECTION—II

5. Answer the following :

1×4=4

- (a) What does the Chorus say about the role it has to perform in the action of *Murder in the Cathedral*?
- (b) What difference is there in the willow tree between Act I and Act II in *Waiting for Godot*?
- (c) By what name does the boy address Vladimir?
- (d) What does Willy give the woman with whom he had an affair?

6. Attempt a character sketch of the Fourth Tempter in the play, *Murder in the Cathedral*.

2

Or

What causes the rift between Biff and Willy Loman?

7. Explain the following with reference to the context :

5+5=10

- (a) "All right, boy. I'm gonna show you and everybody else that Willy Loman did not die in vain. He had a good dream. It's the only dream you can have ..."

Or

"You can't eat the orange and throw the peel away—a man is not a piece of fruit."

- (b) "Nothing happens. Nobody comes, nobody goes. Its awful."

Or

"He'll know nothing. He'll tell me about the blows he received and I'll give him a carrot."

8. Answer any *two* of the following : $10 \times 2 = 20$

- (a) Explain how the play *Murder in the Cathedral* explores the conflict between 'action' and 'suffering'.

Or

Write an essay on Eliot's use of Greek tragedy in shaping his play, *Murder in the Cathedral*.

- (b) Draw a character sketch of Willy Loman as a symbol of the failing American dream.

Or

Describe the significance of the title of the play, *Death of a Salesman*.

- (c) Write an essay on the meaning of human life as depicted by Samuel Beckett in *Waiting for Godot*.

Or

In what way do Lucky and Pozzo contribute to the thematic structure of the play, *Waiting for Godot*? Discuss.

Or

Discuss *Waiting for Godot* as a nihilistic play.

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