

2017

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

(b) In a musical context, what is the meaning of 'absurd' ?

(c) When *All My Sons* opened on Broadway, it was called an _____ play.

(Fill in the blank)

(d) In this respect, *Death of a Salesman* is a _____ play to categorise because nobody in it stops to make a speech objectively..... .

(Fill in the blank)

2. Answer briefly any three of the following :

2×3=6

(a) How did Herbert Blau, the director of *Waiting for Godot* prepare the San Quentin audience for the staging of the play?

(b) How did the Theatre of the Absurd differ from the Existentialist Theatre?

(c) Mention some of the images that Miller mentions in *Introduction to the Collected Plays*, from which *Death of a Salesman* grew.

(d) Why, according to Miller, was *Death of a Salesman* considered to be a pseudo-tragedy?

3. What are Miller's views on ideas? 5

Or

How did the audience at the San Quentin penitentiary react to the staging of *Waiting for Godot*? 5

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

From your reading of Arthur Miller's *Introduction to the Collected Plays*, present Arthur Miller's views on *Death of a Salesman*. 10

SECTION—II

5. Answer in *one* or *two* sentences any *four* of 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) Why is Willy home at the beginning of the play?
- (c) When Pozzo asks Estragon what his name is, what name does Estragon give?
- (d) What does the boy tell Estragon and Vladimir at the end of Act 1?
- (e) How long has Willy worked for his sales firm?
6. How had Willy Loman's neighbourhood changed over the years? Does the change in the neighbourhood matter to Willy Loman?

2

Or

When was *Murder in the Cathedral* first performed? Why did T. S. Eliot write the play?

2

Or

Why does Vladimir walk with short, stiff strides, with legs apart?

2

7. Explain the following with reference to the context :

5+5=10

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

Or

I realized what a ridiculous lie my whole life has been.

(b) You are human beings none the less. (He puts on his glasses.) As far as one can see. (He takes off his glasses.) Of the same species as myself. (He bursts into an enormous laugh!) Of the same species as Pozzo! Made in God's image!

Or

After having sucked all the good out of him you chuck him away like a like a banana skin. Really.

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

(a) Consider *Murder in the Cathedral* as a poetic drama. 10

Or

Attempt an analysis of Thomas Beckett's life and character. 10

(b) Write an essay on the meaning of human life as depicted by Samuel Beckett in *Waiting for Godot*. 10

Or

Waiting for Godot is a play about waiting. Discuss. 10

(7)

- (c) In *Death of a Salesman*, Miller criticizes capitalism and the American way of life. Discuss. 10

Or

- "*Death of a Salesman* is a beautiful play in which private and public themes mesh." Discuss. 10
