

U.G. 6th Semester Examination-2026

ENGLISH

[MAJOR-IX]

Course Code : ENG-MAJ-T-602

(English Drama from 1800 to the Present)

[NEP-2020]

Full Marks : 60

Time : 2½ Hours

*The figures in the right-hand margin indicate marks.**Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.*

UNIT-I

[Marks:20]

If students answer Question 1 from Group A, they must answer Question 2 from Group B, and if they answer Question 2 from Group A, they must answer Question 1 from Group B.

GROUP-A

1. Answer any **one** of the following: $10 \times 1 = 10$
- a) Discuss *The Importance of Being Earnest* as a critique of upper-class Victorian life.
 - b) Discuss the significance of the title of the play *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

[Turn Over]

2. Answer any **two** of the following: $5 \times 2 = 10$

- a) Examine the dramatic role of the handbag found at the Victoria Station cloakroom in *The Importance of Being Earnest*.
- b) Explain and comment: "Divorces are made in Heaven."
- c) Comment on the episode of Jack and Algernon rushing to be christened by Dr. Chasuble in Act II of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

GROUP-B

1. Answer any **one** of the following: $10 \times 1 = 10$

- a) Critically evaluate Candida's choice of "the weaker of the two" men at the climax of George Bernard Shaw's *Candida*.
- b) Discuss *Candida* as a Shavian "Drama of Ideas".

2. Answer any **two** of the following: $5 \times 2 = 10$

- a) Discuss the dramatic significance of portraying Candida in domestic chores in Act II of *Candida*.
- b) Write a brief note on the role of Miss Prosperpine Garnett in *Candida*.

xiv) Who according to Andrew Sanders is the most impressive "angry young man" in Osborne's plays? What was his classic avowal of personal integrity?

xv) How does J. M. Synge distinguish his plays from conventional English drama?

vi) What specific staging element was introduced on-stage in Act II during the 1905 production of *Man and Superman*?

vii) Name the two "Unpleasant Plays" written by George Bernard Shaw in 1893.

viii) Identify the two declining institutions that John Osborne connects in his 1957 play *The Entertainer*.

ix) Which two literary works served as the source material for the plot of Oscar Wilde's play *Salome*?

x) Identify the two contemporary English dramatists who worked alongside George Bernard Shaw at the Royal Court Theatre.

xi) Contrast the underlying views of humanity held by Ibsen and Dickens, as noted by Shaw.

xii) How did the public react to the 1907 premiere of J. M. Synge's *The Playboy of the Western World* at the Abbey Theatre?

xiii) Name any two plays in which Synge perfected a distinctively Irish comic form.

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c) Explain and comment on the phrase "the secret in the poet's heart" in the final stage direction in *Candida*.

UNIT-II and Unit-III

[Marks:20]

If students answer **Question 3** from **Unit-II**, they must answer **Question 4** from **Unit-III**, and if they answer **Question 4** from **Unit-II**, they must answer **Question 3** from **Unit-III**.

UNIT-II

3. Answer any **one** of the following: $10 \times 1 = 10$

a) Discuss Maurya's transformation in her struggle against the sea as depicted in *Riders to the Sea*.

b) Evaluate Arthur Miller's portrayal of the Loman family's downfall in *Death of a Salesman*.

4. Answer any **two** of the following: $5 \times 2 = 10$

a) Explain and comment: "I've seen the fearfulest thing any person has seen since the day Bride Dara saw the dead man with the child in his arms."

b) Discuss Nora and Cathleen as choric characters in *Riders to the Sea*.

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(3)

[Turn Over]

- c) Examine the symbolic function of the flute in Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*.

UNIT-III

3. Answer any **one** of the following: $10 \times 1 = 10$
- a) Examine John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger* as a critique of post-war social anxieties in 1950s Britain.
- b) Discuss the purposes the psychological games in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* serve.
4. Answer any **two** of the following: $5 \times 2 = 10$
- a) Write a brief note on the references to the animals, except to bears and squirrels, in *Look Back in Anger*.
- b) Write a brief note on the opening stage direction of *Look Back in Anger*.
- c) Explain and comment: "He's dead... Telegram came this afternoon."

Question 5 is compulsory.

[Marks:20]

5. Answer any **ten** of the following questions: $2 \times 10 = 20$
- i) What is the unique setting of John Osborne's *Inadmissible Evidence* (1964)?
- ii) Name Oscar Wilde's first play and state the year it was written.
- iii) Identify the respective British theatres where Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* and *The Crucible* were staged.
- iv) Following Oscar Wilde's arrest in April 1895, what two immediate administrative actions did theatres take regarding *An Ideal Husband* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*?
- v) State the name of the prize Arthur Miller received for his contribution to American theatre and the year in which it was awarded to him.