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Acc. No.
Date

2026

ENGLISH

(Major)

Paper : ENG4400404MJ

(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 : 1×8=8

(a) What is the profession of Henry Higgins in *Pygmalion*?

(b) Name the city in which the action of *Pygmalion* is mainly set.

(c) What game do Rosencrantz and Guildenstern play at the play's start?

(d) Who is the protagonist of Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral* ?

(e) What position does Thomas hold at the time of his assassination?

(f) Give the name of the author of *The Ash Girl*.

(g) Who hosts the ball in *The Ash Girl*?

(h) Give an example of Comedy of Horrors.

2. Answer any *six* of the following : 2×6=12

(a) Who is the protagonist in *Pygmalion* and what is her social background at the beginning of the play?

(b) How does clothing function as a symbol of social class in *Pygmalion*?

(c) How does *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* reframe the roles of its protagonists from Shakespeare's *Hamlet*?

(d) What happens in the final scene of *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* and why do Rosencrantz and Guildenstern disappear?

(e) Define poetic drama with suitable illustrations.

(f) Name any two of the seven deadly sins that appear as characters in *The Ash Girl*.

(g) Describe how Ashgirl loses her slipper at the ball.

(h) What is the concept of naturalism in English literature?

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(i) How do the four knights justify their murder of Becket in the play, *Murder in the Cathedral*?

(j) Explain the significance of the line "The last temptation is the greatest treason : To do the right deed for the wrong reason".

3. Answer any *four* of the following : 5×4=20

(a) What is the significance of the title *Pygmalion* in relation to the plot of the play?

(b) Describe the symbolic role of the Women's Chorus in *Murder in the Cathedral*.

(c) Critically analyze the nature of the four temptations in *Murder in the Cathedral*.

(d) Explain the significance of the letter to the English king and its alteration. How does this event heighten the play's tragic irony?

(e) Compare and contrast Rosencrantz and Guildenstern's personalities and responses to existential confusion using examples from their interactions with Hamlet.

(f) Write briefly about the growth and development of problem play.

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(g) Define the term 'Theatre of Catastrophe' and give its aims.

(h) Analyze the relationship between Ashgirl and her stepmother as revealed in *The Ash Girl.*

4. Answer any *two* of the following : 10×2=20

(a) Trace the growth and development of Irish theatre with special reference to some of its major practitioners.

(b) Discuss how Shaw uses Eliza Doolittle's transformation in *Pygmalion* to critique the rigid class structure of Edwardian society. Support your answer with specific reference to her interactions with Higgins and Pickering.

(c) Analyze the idea of martyrdom in T. S. Eliot's play, *Murder in the Cathedral.*

(d) Discuss how the play, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* embodies the Theatre of Absurd using the coin toss motif and the protagonists' existential confusion as key examples.

(e) Examine Ashgirl as a modern protagonist contrasting her internal struggles with traditional fairy-tale heroines. Support your analysis with reference to her encounters with the fairy in the Mirror and the Seven Deadly Sins.

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