

**West Bengal State University**  
**B.A./B.Sc./B.Com. (Honours, Major, General) Examinations, 2012**  
**PART-III**  
**ENGLISH – (HONOURS)**  
**Paper– VI**

Duration : 4 Hours

Full Marks : 100

*Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.*

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks.*

**SECTION - I**

1. Answer briefly any *four* of the following questions : 4 × 5 = 20
- a) Who were the major dramatists in the Irish Literary Revival ? Why was it so named ?
  - b) Consider the importance of John Galsworthy with special reference to *The Forsyte Saga*.
  - c) Indicate two features of Brecht's drama that brought about a change in European theatre. Refer to any one of his plays.
  - d) What is the 'theatre of cruelty' ? Give two examples of this kind of play.
  - e) What do you understand by 'drama of ideas' ? Discuss with special reference to Shaw's *Arms and the Man* or *Man and Superman* .
  - f) Briefly discuss the impact of existentialism on British drama with special reference to any one major exponent.

**SECTION - II**

2. Answer any two questions from the following. Do not take two questions from the same group. 2 x 15 = 30

**GROUP - A**

- a) Examine the socio-political climate of England as revealed in Shaw's *Candida*.

OR

- b) How does Shaw bring out the weakness in James Morell's professed virtuousness ?

- c) How has Shaw dealt with the idea of feminism in *Major Barbara* ?

OR

- d) Discuss the differences between Undershaft's and Major Barbara's commitment to the improvement of humanity.

**GROUP - B**

- e) Is Maurya a tragic protagonist in Synge's *Riders to the Sea* ? Justify your answer with close textual references.

OR

- f) In Synge's *Riders to the Sea* there is a fine mixture of Greek and Irish elements. Discuss.

- g) How does J. M. Synge's play *The Playboy of the Western World* depict Christy's process of self-realization.

OR

h)

i)

j)

Answer

a)

b)

c)

d)

- h) Comment on the social and religious background portrayed by J. M. Synge in the play *The Playboy of the Western World*.

**GROUP - C**

- i) Comment on the significance of the title of Pinter's *The Caretaker*.

OR

- j) "Every word you speak is open to any member of different interpretations. Most of what you say is lies. You're violent, you're erratic, you're just completely unpredictable" — Assess the character of Davies in the light of this comment.

Answer any six of the following questions taking *three* each from any two Groups :

6 × 5 = 30

**GROUP -A**

- a) "I'm very fond of her and can appreciate her real qualities far better than any man can." Explain the statement.
- b) "I'll fight your ideas. I'll rescue her from her slavery to them". Who is the speaker ? Who is being referred to ? Who is being spoken to ?
- c) Who is Mr. Burgess ? What are his main characteristics ?
- d) "I like a man to be true to himself, even in wickedness." Explain.

**GROUP -B**

- e) Write a note on the Salvation Army.
- f) "Right is right; and wrong is wrong; and if a man cannot distinguish properly, he is either a fool or a rascal : that's all." Who says this and in context are the lines spoken ?
- g) What is the significance of the name of Undershaft's partner Lazarus ?
- h) " ... my father being a Chartist"— Who were the Chartists ?

**GROUP -C**

- i) "... in this place it is the young men do be leaving things behind for them do be old." Comment on the use of language.
- j) Write a note on Bride Dara.
- k) "It's the life of a young man to be going on the sea and who would listen to old woman with one thing ... ." What does this comment suggest about character of Cathleen ?
- l) "Why wouldn't you give him your blessing and he looking round in the door Who says this and to whom ? When does she say this ? Who is 'he' ?

**GROUP -D**

- m) Who are Philly Cullen and Jimmy Farrell ?
- n) "What' ll I be doing now ? I'd inform again him, but he'd burst from Kilmainham and he'd be sure and certain to destroy me." Who says this and in what context ?
- o) Write a note on Pegeen's father.
- p) "I would and welcome, Michael James, but I'm afraid of Father Reilly; and what at all would the Holy Father and the Cardinals of Rome be saying if they heard I did the like of that." Explain.

**GROUP - E**

- q) Discuss the significance of the statue of Buddha in *The Caretaker*.
- r) What is the dream of Aston ?
- s) Mention two negative things that Davies says about Aston to Mick.
- t) "I' ve lived all my life in the air, boy." Who's the speaker ? Explain the significance of the line.

## SECTION - III

4. Write a substance of the following passage / poem and critically comment on the ideas, language, style and technique . 10 + 10 =

a) Man has been trying for long to fathom the mysteries of creation; scientists to have been trying. But can he with his limited capacity truly grasp its full power ? The scientist cannot conceive of it, may be the philosopher thinks even that to be possible. But to attain such a level, he must think that this very physical frame itself is Maya and that truly he himself is an inseparable part of the Great Power. Of course in our country this line of thought has been propagated in many forms — perhaps even now many do believe in it heart and soul. Once someone comes to this realization we say about him, 'Now he is liberated.' The scientist wonders where has he gone then! For he no longer has any links with our world !

OR

b) These are actors,

As I foretold you, were all spirits and

Are melted into air, into thin air

And like the baseless fabric of this vision,

The cloud-capp'd towers, the gorgeous palaces,

The solemn temples, the great globe itself

Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve

And like this insubstantial pageant faded,

Leave not a rack behind, we are such stuff

As dreams are made on and our little life

Is rounded with a sleep.

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