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3 (Sem-6/CBCS) ENG HC 1

2026

ENGLISH

(Honours Core)

Paper : ENG-HC-6016

(Modern European Drama)

Full Marks : 80

Time : Three hours

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

1. Answer ***any ten*** of the following questions
as directed : 1×10=10

(a) Helene Alving is the widow of _____.

(Fill up the blank)

- (b) "I can't stand their smell, it always gives me migraine." Who says this ?
- (c) Who is Charlotta ?
- (d) Who is Lucky ?
- (e) Who finally gets the custody of the child in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* ?
- (f) What does Vladimir ask the boy to tell Mr. Godot on the second day ?
- (g) Where does the action of the play, *Waiting for Godot* begin ?
- (h) What is Estragon's pet name ?
- (i) Mrs. Alving decides to build an orphanage in memory of her husband. (State whether the statement is True or False)
- (j) How many acts are there in the play, *Ghosts* ?
- (k) How many years does Madame Ranevskaya spend in Paris ?
- (l) Which character represents the past in *The Cherry Orchard* ?

- (m) Name the play staged by the singer to entertain the people of the two kolchos.
- (n) What is 'Verfremdungseffekt' ?
- (o) When and where was *Waiting for Godot* first staged ?

2. Answer **any five** of the following questions :

2×5=10

- (a) Give *two* examples that show Madame Ranevsky's inability to come to terms with reality.
- (b) What makes Mrs. Alving a 'New Woman' ?
- (c) What does Grusha do to give the child a legitimate identity ?
- (d) How are the two tramps Vladimir and Estragon different from each other ?
- (e) What happens to Pozzo and Lucky in Act II ?

(f) What are the *two* sources that Brecht made use of for writing his play, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* ?

(g) What does the cherry orchard signify ?

3. Answer **any four** of the following questions :

5×4=20

(a) Write a short note on the 'joy of life' from your reading of Ibsen's *Ghosts*.

(b) What does Trofimov mean when he tells Anya, "All Russia is our orchard" ?

(c) What is the significance of objects and landscape in *Waiting for Godot* ?

(d) "But I almost believe we are ghosts, all of us, Pastor. It's not only what we inherit from our fathers and mothers that keeps on returning in us. It's all kinds of old dead doctrines and opinions and beliefs, that sort of thing." Discuss the relevance of the term 'ghost' in the context of this statement.

(e) Discuss the significance of the Prologue in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*.

(f) Explore briefly the symbolic implications of Godot in Beckett's play.

(g) Analyze the character of Lopakhin from your reading of the play, *The Cherry Orchard*.

(h) The singer is the most important musical performer on stage both in his role as a storyteller (narrator) and commentator. Justify from your reading of Brecht's *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*.

4. Answer **any four** of the following questions :

10×4=40

(a) Modern European Drama is characterized by its attempt to critically evaluate the dominant value structures of its time. Give examples from *any one* play in your course to substantiate your answer.

- (b) Elaborate on Existentialism as a philosophy in the context of *Waiting for Godot*.
- (c) How does Brecht expose the underlying social inequalities in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* ?
- (d) Discuss *The Cherry Orchard* as a play about social change.
- (e) Write a note on realism in modern European Drama with special reference to Ibsen's *Ghosts*.
- (f) *The Cherry Orchard* is a comedy despite its tragic overtones. Justify.
- (g) Discuss *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* as an Epic Theatre.
- (h) Lucky's speech is an explosive illustration of the desire of an underdog in any oppressive system. Base your answer on a close analysis of the speech.

- (i) In Mrs. Alving, Ibsen has created the prototype of the early feminists. Give a well-reasoned answer.
 - (j) How does *Waiting for Godot* demonstrate the qualities of the Theatre of the Absurd ?
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