

2 0 1 3

ENGLISH

( Major )

Paper : 5.2

Full Marks : 60

Time : 3 hours

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

SECTION—I

1. Fill in the blank/Answer the questions in one sentence : 1×3=3
  - (a) According to Sartre, — comes before essence.
  - (b) Why did Herbert Blau compare *Waiting for Godot* to a piece of jazz music?
  - (c) What was the initial title of *Death of a Salesman*?
  
2. Answer briefly any three of the following : 2×3=6
  - (a) What does the word 'absurd' mean in *Theatre of the Absurd*?
  - (b) Why was Paris the chosen centre for writers of the *Theatre of the Absurd*?

- (c) What are some of the things that Miller opines about actors in his *Introduction to Collected Plays*?
- (d) In *All My Sons*, Miller uses the linear or eventual method in unfolding his story. What does he mean by linear or eventual method?
3. Miller considers 'idea' as the most important aspect of any play. What are his views on 'idea'?

5

Or

Write a note on the first staging of *Waiting for Godot* at San Quentin and the reaction of the audience present at this staging.

4. "Most of the incomprehension with which plays of this type are still being received by critics and theatrical reviewers, most of the bewilderment they have caused and to which they still give rise, come from the fact that they are part of a new and still developing stage convention that has not yet been generally understood ..."

What reasons does Esslin present for the 'incomprehension' of the *Theatre of the Absurd*?

10

Or

Referring to *Death of a Salesman*, Miller in his *Introduction to Collected Plays* says, "The play grew from simple images." Write a note on the images from which *Death of a Salesman* grew.

SECTION—II

5. Answer each of the following questions in one sentence : 1×4=4
- (a) Why did Eliot write *Murder in the Cathedral*?
  - (b) What is Thomas's main flaw?
  - (c) By what name does the boy address Vladimir?
  - (d) What does Willy give the woman with whom he had an affair?

6. What are seeds symbolic of in *Death of a Salesman*? 2

Or

Attempt a character sketch of the second priest in *Murder in the Cathedral*.

7. Explain the following with reference to the context : 5
- (a) He's a man way out there in the blue, riding on a smile and a shoeshine ... A salesman is got to dream, boy.

Or

And when I saw that, I realised that selling was the greatest career a man could want. 'Cause what could be more satisfying than to be able to go, at the age of eighty-four, into twenty or thirty different cities, and pick up a phone, and be remembered and loved and helped by so many different people.

- (b) But that is not the question. Why we are here, that is the question. And we are blessed in this, that we happen to know the answer. Yes, in this immense confusion one thing alone is clear. We are waiting for Godot to come.

5

Or

The tears of the world are a constant quantity. For each one who begins to weep somewhere else another stops. The same is true of the laugh.

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

- (a) Compare the relationship between Lucky and Pozzo with the relationship between Vladimir and Estragon.
- (b) Justify the title of the play, *Waiting for Godot*.
- (c) What role does the fear of abandonment play in Willy's life?
- (d) Discuss *Death of a Salesman* as a critique on the American dream.
- (e) Trace the journey of the Chorus in *Murder in the Cathedral*.
- (f) How does Eliot explore the theme of martyrdom in *Murder in the Cathedral*?

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