

**MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMME IN  
ENGLISH**

**Term-End Examination**

**June, 2017**

21115

**MEG-2 : BRITISH DRAMA**

*Time : 3 hours*

*Maximum Marks : 100*

**Note :** Answer question no. 1, which is **compulsory**.  
Attempt any **four** of the remaining questions. All  
questions carry equal marks.

1. Critically comment on any **four** of the following passages with reference to the context, in not more than 150 words each : 4×5=20
- (a) O, my offence is rank, it smells to heaven,  
It had the primal eldest curse upon't  
A brother's murder ! Pray can I not.  
Though inclination be as sharp as will.
- (b) Galatea never does quite like Pygmalion :  
his relation to her is too godlike to be  
altogether agreeable.
- (c) What boots it then to think of God or heaven ?  
Away with such fancies and despair;  
Despair in God, and trust in Beelzebub ...  
Abjure this magic, turn to God again.

(d) Astride of a grave and a difficult birth.  
Down in the hole, lingeringly, the  
gravedigger puts on the forceps. We have  
time to grow old. The air is full of our  
cries. But habit is a great deadener.

(e) Thou speak'st aright  
I am the merry wanderer of the night.  
I jest to Oberon, and make him smile  
When I a fat and bean-fed horse beguile,  
Neighing in likeness of a filly foal  
And sometimes lurk I in a gossip's bowl.

2. Discuss *The Alchemist* as a comedy of character  
and event.

20

OR

✓ Examine *Doctor Faustus* as a tragedy of neurosis  
and relate it to the predicament of contemporary  
man.

3. Critically examine the role of the chorus in Eliot's  
*Murder in the Cathedral*.

20

OR

✓ Critically examine the significance of dreams in  
*A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

4. Discuss *Hamlet* as a revenge tragedy. 20

OR

Discuss *The Playboy of the Western World* as a bildungsroman that portrays the development of the central character.

5. ✓ "Pygmalion hinges on the contrast of characters." Critically comment. 20

OR

"Beckett rejects the received logic of form and conventional structure." Critically comment.

6. Discuss the Romantic and Modernist conceptions of character in the presentation of Jimmy as the play's protagonist. 20

OR

Discuss the formulation of Elizabethan tragedy with reference to the prescribed plays.

7. ✓ Write short notes on any *two* of the following in not more than 200 words each :  $2 \times 10 = 20$

- (a) Hamlet's Soliloquies
  - (b) Romantic Comedy
  - (c) Higgins
  - (d) The concept of character in modern drama
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