

SUBJECT CODE: EL/MC/DR34

B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2008

BRANCH XII – ENGLISH

THIRD SEMESTER

COURSE : MAJOR – CORE

PAPER : DRAMA

TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS : 100

I Choose four passages, ONE from each text, and attempt an analysis of each passage : (4x15=60)

- a) **Helmer:** ...They might even think I was the one behind it all, that it was I who pushed you into it! And it's you I have to thank for this ... and when I've taken such good care of you, all our married life. Now do you understand what you have done to me?
Nora: (coldly and calmly) Yes
Helmer: I just can't understand it, it's so incredible. But we must see about putting things right. Take that shawl off. Take it off. I tell you! I must see if I can't find some way or other of appeasing him. The thing must be hushed up at all costs. And as far as you and I are concerned, things must appear to go on exactly as before. But only in the eyes of the world, of course. In other words you'll go on living here; that's understood. But you will not be allowed to bring up the children, I can't trust you with them...Oh that I should have to say this to the woman I loved so dearly, the woman I still...Well, that must be all over and done with. From now on, there can be no question of happiness. All we can do is save the bits and pieces from the wreck, preserve appearances...
- b) **Shen Te:** Oh, don't, illustrious ones! Don't go away. Don't leave me! How can I face the good old couple who've lost their store and the water seller with his stiff hands. And how can I defend myself from the barber whom I do not love and from Sun whom I do love: And I am with child. Soon there'll be a little son who'll want to eat. I can't stay here.
(She turns with a hunted look toward the door which will let her tormentors in)
First God: You can do it. Just be good and everything will turn out well!
(Enter the witnesses. They look with surprise at the judges floating on their pink cloud)
Wong: Show respect! The gods have appeared among us! Three of the highest gods have come to Setzuan to find a good human being. They had found one already, but...
First God: No 'but'! Here she is!
All: Shen Te
First God: She has not perished. She was only hidden. She will stay with you. A good human being.
- c) **Vladimir:** Well?
Estragon: (his mouth full, vacuously) We're not tied?
Vladimir: I don't hear a word you're saying.
Estragon: (Chews, swallows) I'm asking you if we're tied.
Vladimir: Tied?
Estragon: Ti-ed

Vladimir: How do you mean tied?
Estragon: Down.
Vladimir: But to whom. By whom?
Estragon: To your man.
Vladimir: To Godot? Tied to Godot? What an idea! No question of it.
(Pause) for the moment.
Estragon: His name is Godot?
Vladimir: I think so.
Estragon: Fancy that. (He raises what remains of the carrot by the stubs of leaf, whirls it before his eyes) Funny the more you eat the worse it gets!
Vladimir: With me it's just the opposite.
Estragon: In other words?
Vladimir: I get used to the muck as I go along.

d) **Valdes:** Faustus, these books, thy wit and our experience...
Shall make all nations to canonize us.
As Indian Moors obey their Spanish lords,
So shall the spirits of every element
Be always serviceable to us three.
Like lions shall they guard us when we please:
Like Almain rutters with their horsemen's staves,
Or Lapland giants, trotting by our sides
Sometimes like women, or unwedded maids,
Shadowing more beauty in their airy brows
Than have the white breasts of the Queen of love;
From Venice shall they drag huge argosies:
And from America the golden fleece,
That yearly stuffs old Philip's treasury:
If learned Faustus will be resolute.

Faustus: Valdes, as resolute am I in this
As thou to live: therefore object it not.

e) **Nora** : No, it wasn't nice of me, Kristine. Oh, you poor thing, what you must have gone through. And didn't he leave you anything?

Mrs. Linde: No.

Nora : And no children?

Mrs. Linde: No

Nora : Absolutely nothing?

Mrs. Linde: Nothing at all...not even a broken heart to grieve over.

Nora : (looks at her incredulously) But, Kristine, is that possible?

Mrs. Linde : (smiles sadly and strokes Nora's hair) Oh, it sometimes happens, Nora.

Nora : So utterly alone. How terribly sad that must be for you I have three lovely children. You can't see them for the moment, because they're out with their nanny. But now you must tell me all about yourself...

- f) **Faustus:** My heart's so harden'd I cannot repent:
Scarce can I name salvation, faith, or heaven
But fearful echoes thunder in mine ears,
"Faustus, thou art damn'd". Then swords, and knives,
Poison, guns, halters and envenom'd steel
Are laid before me to dispatch myself.
And long ere this I should have slain myself,
Had not sweet pleasure conquer'd deep despair,
Have not I made blind Homer sing to me?
Of Alexander's love, and Oenon's death?
And hath not he, that built the walls of Thebes
With ravishing sound of his melodious harp,
Made music with my Mephistophillis?

II. Write an essay in 500 words on any ONE. (1x20=20)

- a) 'Home' as seen in *A Doll's House*.
OR
b) Becket's exploration of a 'static situation' in *Waiting for Godot*.

III. Answer any TWO questions in about 200 words each. (2x10=20)

- a) The role played by Mrs. Linde in *A Doll's House*.
b) *Doctor Faustus* as a morality play.
c) Shen Te's invention of a male alter ego.
d) Pozzo's treatment of Lucky in *Waiting for Godot*.
