

ENGLISH HONORS
SEM 6
Modern European Drama-
Questions for practice
PART 1

1. What is the significance of objects and landscape in *Waiting for Godot*?
2. Who is Godot?
3. Lucky's speech in the play *Waiting for Godot*, is a commentary on the non-linearity of human life. Comment.
4. What are the various instances in the play that bring out the existential angst in the characters?
5. Do you think that the landscape of *Waiting for Godot* represent a barren apocalyptic country road? Discuss the play in relevance to your understanding of this question.
6. How does the relationship between characters in *Waiting for Godot* represent all kind of relationships in the human world ?
7. What is the significance of the leafless tree, watch, lucky's stool, Pozzo's whip, Estragon's boots and Vladimir's hat in the play?
8. In your opinion, why was not the play appreciated by the audience initially when it was staged ?
9. What is the relevance of songs and dance in Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*?
10. "*Waiting for Godot* is a play that baffles audiences". Support your answer with arguments if you agree with the statement, and also if you disagree with the statement.
11. Why do the characters in the play *Waiting for Godot*, keep discussing about Bible?

12. Is *Waiting for Godot* is a play written by a genius or a mad man taking chances in the world to express it in his own way? Discuss with reference to your reading of the play.
- 13 How does 'Waiting for Godot' demonstrate the qualities of theatre of the Absurd?
- 14 What is 'mandrake'? What is its symbolic reference? (Short note)
- 15 Elaborate on Existentialism as a philosophy in context of Waiting for Godot
- 16 What are the major themes dealt by Samuel Beckett in Waiting for Godot?

PART 2

Ionesco's *Rhinoceros*

Q1) Discuss the way Ionesco uses techniques of repetition and parallel conversations to bring out his intended themes. (10)

Q2) "So then, logically speaking, my dog must be a cat?"

"Logically, yes. But the contrary is also true"

1) Identify the context and speakers (3)

2) How do these lines bring out the genre of the text as well as the themes? (7)

Q3) The play *Rhinoceros* is closely linked to Nietzsche's concept of the superman. Examine this in the light of Berenger's character. (15)

Q4) How is the play *Rhinoceros* a critique of totalitarian state? (15)

Ibsen's *Ghosts*

Q1) "The sins of the fathers are visited upon the children,"

- 1) Identify the context and speaker. (4)
- 2) Explain the thematic significance of this line (6)

Q2) "Yes, always law and order! I often think they are the root of all our miseries on earth."

- 1) Identify the speaker and context of these lines. (3)
- 2) What do these lines show about the character of the speaker and the themes of the play? (7)

Q3) Explain the significance of the title *Ghosts* in Ibsen with special focus on its link with the theme of inheritance. (15)

Q4) Pastor Manders and Mrs. Alving are foils to each other throughout the play *Ghosts*. Comment. (15)

PART 3

The Good Person of Schezwan

Q1. Brecht's Good Person, from the very start, is a satire on morality, rather than being a carrier of virtue and ethics in a cruel world. Analyze with special focus on Shen Te and Wong the water seller.

Q2 'Morals are absurd, kindness is rare and love is non-existent.' If Shen Te's world is so cruel, do human beings or their morals stand a chance here? In other words, is Brecht trying to prove that this world is unfit to exist?