

M.A. 2nd Semester Examination, 2011

ENGLISH

PAPER—201

Full Marks : 40

Time : 2 hours

Answer all questions

The figures in the right-hand margin indicate marks

Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable

1. Answer any *one* of the following (within 300 words): 10
- (a) Critically analyse Ibsen's presentation of the character of Nora.
- (b) Comment upon the appropriateness of the title of Ibsen's *A Doll's House*.

(c) Bring out the significance of the Hell scene in *Man and Superman*.

(d) *Man and Superman* is the story of a tragi-comic love chase. Discuss.

2. Answer any *one* of the following (within 300 words) : 10

(a) Examine *The Importance of Being Earnest* as a 'nonsense' play.

(b) Assess Wilde's skill in handling the theme of dual identity in *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

(c) Write a note on the role of the chorus in *Murder in the Cathedral*.

(d) Bring out the significance of the temptation episode in *Murder in the Cathedral*.

3. Answer any *one* of the following (within 300 words) : 10

(a) Write a note on the appropriateness of the title of *The Birthday Party*.

(b) Insecurity is central to a Pinter character. Discuss with reference to one of the major characters in *The Birthday Party*.

(c) Would you call Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* a comedy? Justify your answer.

(d) Discuss how both Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are bewildered witnesses as well as predestined victims in Stoppard's play.

4. Comment on any *two* of the following (within 100 words each) : 5 × 2

(a) (i) The elaborate stage direction at the beginning of *A Doll's House*.

Or

(ii) "Then I — I am the bee, the spider, the marked down victim, the destined prey."

(b) (i) The character of Lady Bracknell.

Or

(ii) The Interlude in *Murder in the Cathedral*.

(c) (i) Pinter's use of language in *The Birthday Party*.

Or

(ii) The verbal wit in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*.
