

M.A. 2nd Semester Examination, 2012

ENGLISH

PAPER— ENG-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) Briefly discuss Ibsen's treatment of marriage in *A Doll's House*.
 - (b) Critically examine Ibsen's art of plot construction in *A Doll's House*.
 - (c) Do you think that the characters in *Man and Superman* are dramatized ideas? Answer with reference to the character of Tanner.

(d) Is it possible to enjoy *Man and Superman* as comedy without its philosophy? Give reasons.

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

10

(a) Critically examine the sub-title of Wilde's play *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

(b) Why does Wilde pair and group the characters in *The Importance of Being Earnest*? Discuss.

(c) Comment on the relevance of the speeches by the Knights after the murder of Thomas Becket in *Murder in the Cathedral*.

(d) Would you regard Thomas Becket as a tragic hero? Justify your answer.

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

10

(a) *The Birthday Party* is a blend of the funny and the menacing. Discuss.

- (b) Show how in *The Birthday Party* the central action revolves around Stanley's hopes and fears.
- (c) Discuss *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* as an 'absurdist' play.
- (d) Comment on the metatheatrical devices employed in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*.

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

- (a) (i) The ending of *A Doll's House*.

Or

- (ii) Role of Henry Straker in *Man and Superman*.

- (b) (i) The 'inscription inside the cigarette case lost by Jack.

Or

- (ii) The apparent inconsistency in the arguments of the Fourth Tempter.

(c) (i) Stanley's glasses in *The Birthday Party*.

Or

(ii) The significance of the player King in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*.