

MA Semester IV

2021

English

End Semester Examination

DSE XII

Modernism and Postmodernism

Full Marks: 40

Time: 2 hrs

PLEASE READ EACH OF THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU START WRITING:

- Write the **name of the examination, examination roll number, registration number, course name** and the **total number of pages submitted** in the **front page** of the answer script (in the **template** already provided).
- Leave a **one inch margin** on the **left** and on **top** of each page before starting to write the examination.
- Put **page number** on **top right** of each page.
- Students should write **legibly** their answers preferably on **A4 size sheets**, scan them and send the entire answer script as **one PDF file**.
- The scanned answer scripts should have **enough clarity** to enable evaluation.
- Of the questions attempted, the answers to only the first required number of questions (as instructed in the question paper) will be evaluated. So **please do not attempt extra questions**.
- **Word limit** in questions, wherever specified, should be **strictly adhered to**.
- **No multiple submissions** of answer scripts will be allowed.
- **Avoid** discussion with anyone else; it may **reduce** your marks if **similarities** are found in answers.
- **Plagiarism** related to any **online/offline** source(s) will be **strictly dealt with**.

(The long and the short questions are not to be attempted from the same text/subunit)

Unit I

1. Answer **any one** of the following questions (750 words):

15 x 1 = 15

- a) Who do you think is the 'author' of the narrative of the six characters in *Six Characters in Search of an Author*? Discuss.
- b) *Endgame* offers a morbid picture of the human condition. Do you agree with this view? Give reasons for your answer.
- c) Discuss how in *Rhinoceros*, by the use of settings, colours and sounds Ionesco conjures up a dream reality consisting of rapid transformations. How is realm related to social reality? 8+7

2. Answer **any one** of the following questions (250 words):

5 x 1 = 5

- a) Briefly comment on the following excerpt: “Why do you want to spoil a miracle by being factual. Can’t you see this is a miracle of reality, that is born, brought to life, lured here, reproduced, just for the sake of this scene, with more right to be alive here than you have?”
- b) How would you compare the two main characters in Beckett’s *Endgame*?
- c) Explain with reference to the context: ‘There’s only them left now; nobody but them. Even the authorities have joined them’.

Unit II

3. Answer **any one** of the following questions (750 words):

15 x 1 = 15

- a) The complexity of Sarah’s character derives from a simultaneous validation of patriarchy and adherence to feminine jouissance. Do you agree? Answer with close reference to *The French Lieutenant’s Woman*.
- b) Is *If on a Winter’s Night a Traveller* a novel consisting only of beginnings? Discuss.
- c) Is Billy Pilgrim in *Slaughter House Five* able to distance himself from the Tralfamodorian notions of time and death? If so, how?

4. Comment on **any one** of the following (250 words):

5 x 1 = 5

- a) One of the epigraphs in *The French Lieutenant’s Woman*.
 - b) ‘For an instant I seem to understand the meaning and fascination of a now inconceivable vocation: that of a copyist’.
 - c) ‘I say, “Why don’t you write an anti-glacier book instead?”’
-