

LOYOLA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), CHENNAI – 600 034

M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION – ENGLISH LITERATURE

THIRD SEMESTER – APRIL 2010

EL 3804 - DRAMA (BRITISH & AMERICAN) FROM 1900

Date & Time: 26/04/2010 / 9:00 - 12:00 Dept. No.

Max. : 100 Marks

PART-A

Explain with reference to the context the following and answer the questions given below:
(10 x 2 = 20marks)

1. "Why did you leave the organization?"
Explain the context of this question.
2. "Stan, don't let them tell you what to do!"
Bring out the implications beneath this statement.
3. "Why are you wasting everybody's time, Webber?"
Is there a problem with Webber?
4. "There are only two sorts of soldiers: Old ones and young ones."
Comment on this statement.
5. "I don't believe the first man is a coward. I know he is a hero."
Why does the speaker say so?
6. "Ambition! That's the ticket. I have a brother who's very much like you, Daddy... ambitious."
Is ambition an essential ingredient of the American dream?
7. "The woman... said that she... had never been blessed with anything very much like a bumble of joy."
What do you make of the statement?
8. "How can any one of us forget?... That's what makes it so hard for all of us. We can't forget."
What is the 'forgetting' spoken of here?
9. "He thinks money spent on a home is money wasted. He's lived too much in hotels... He doesn't Understand a home."
Is "he" as miserly and materialistic as he is made out to be?
10. "He must have been a peculiar man, for your father had to go to work in a machine shop when he Was only ten years old."
Comment on the empathy of the speaker.

PART-B

Answer Five of the following questions choosing not less than two from each section:

(5 x 8 = 40marks)

Section-1

11. Comment on the puns and the wit employed by Wilde in **The Importance of Being Earnest**.
12. Discuss the relevance of the title **Juno and the Paycock** to the play's theme.
13. "Beckett does not place his characters in Place and Time." Examine this critical comment with reference to **Waiting for Godot**.
14. Critically comment on Stoppard's **Rosencrantz and Guildenstern** are dead as a philosophical farce.

Section-2

15. Edward Albee's *The American Dream* is at once, ridiculous and satiric. Discuss.
16. August Wilson's **Fences** explores African-American identity. Elucidate.
17. Lorraine Hansberry's **A Raisin in the Sun** points up the bitterness of the social conditions that forcibly and continuously deferred the aspirations of the Afro-American family in the play. Do you agree with the views?
18. Consider Arthur Miller's **Death of a Salesman** as expressionist drama.

PART-C

Attempt answers for the following questions in about 300 words each: (2x20=40marks)

- 19.a) Do you agree with the view that Pinter has succeeded in making his characters true to life in **The Birthday Party**. Give examples from the text.
Or
- b). "**Arms and the Man** is a satire on romantic love and war". Substantiate with textual evidence.
- 20.a) How far do you agree with the view that Tennessee Williams' portrait of Blanche is one of the best ever produced in American drama?
Or
- b). "The theatre," according to Eugene O'Neill should reveal to us who we are." In the light of the statement, do you think the characters in "Long Day's Journey Into Night" are plausible and probable?
