

**MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMME IN  
ENGLISH**

**Term-End Examination**

**December, 2006**

**MEG-2 : BRITISH DRAMA**

*Time : 3 hours*

*Maximum Marks : 100*

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**Note :** Answer question number **1** which is **compulsory**,  
and any **four** from the remaining questions. All  
questions carry equal marks.

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- 1.** Annotate any **four** of the following passages with  
reference to the context in not more than 150 words  
each : 4×5=20
- (i) 'Till, swollen with cunning of a self-conceit,  
His waxen wings did mount above his reach,  
And, melting, heavens conspired his overthrow'
- (ii) 'It's Pegeen I'm seeking only, and what'd I care if  
you brought me a drift of chosen females, standing  
in their shifts itself, maybe, from this place to the  
eastern world ?'

- (iii) The wisest aunt, telling the saddest tale,  
Sometimes for three-foot stool mistaketh me;  
Then slip I from her bum, down topples she.
- (iv) To all mankind they were addressed, those cries for  
help still ringing in our ears ! But at his place, at this  
moment of time, all mankind is us, whether we like  
it or not.
- (v) Of course I know you dont mean her any harm; but  
when you get what you call interested in people's  
accents, you never think or care what may happen  
to them or you. Come with me, Eliza.

2. Write a long note on : The Modernist conception of  
character in drama. (400 words) 20

**OR**

Would you agree that 'the aspirations of Marlowe's  
Faustus are those of the Renaissance' ? Justify your  
answer. (400 words).

3. What are the different ways in which Shakespeare tries to  
please his contemporary audience — both the aristocrats  
and the commoners — in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* ?  
(400 words) 20

**OR**

Compare and comment on the different functions of the  
play within a play in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and  
in *Hamlet*. (400 words)

4. To what extent is Jonson's caricature of individual follies and foibles in *The Alchemist* a satiric attack on Jacobean society? Discuss. (400 words) 20

**OR**

How does Jonson use Lovewit's house to bring together the diverse characters and maintain the Unities in *The Alchemist*? (400 words)

5. Despite the farcical situations in *The Playboy of the Western World* Synge's play is finally a dark comedy. Discuss. (400 words) 20

6. Analyse the significance of the two transformations (Eliza and her father Doolittle) in *Pygmalion*. (400 words) 20

**OR**

Would you agree that 'practically nothing happens ... and there is no beginning and no end' in *Waiting for Godot*? Give reasons for your answer.

7. Write short notes on any **two** of the following in not more than 200 words each : 2×10=20

- (i) Feminist criticism
- (ii) Soliloquy in Elizabethan drama
- (iii) The Irish Literary Renaissance
- (iv) Becket's Christmas sermon