

M.A. 4<sup>th</sup> Semester Examination, 2022

ENGLISH

Course Code: ENG 405 ME (E)

Course ID: 40355

Course Title: *Post 1950s British Literature I*

Time: 2 hours

Full Marks: 40

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks.*

*Answer all the questions.*

UNIT I

1. Answer *any one* of the following questions: 1 x 12 = 12

- a) "There is a strong vein of violence in many of Pinter's plays".– Elucidate with close reference to Pinter's *The Birthday Party*.
- b) How do Goldberg and McCann exude menace in *The Birthday Party*? Are they "agents of some establishment"?
- c) Critically explore the symbiotic relationship between life and theatre in Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*.
- d) *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* is a re-writing of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Discuss.

UNIT II

2. Answer *any one* of the following questions: 1 x 12 = 12

- a) Why do you think Ted Hughes uses the crow as his mouthpiece? Analyse the poem with illustrations from the text.
- b) How does Ted Hughes substantiate that pikes are "perfect", and "killers from the egg"?
- c) Show how in 'A Map of the City', Thom Gunn depicts the city as a space of endless potential.
- d) Call it heaven, call it hell,  
Join me and see the world I sell.  
– Does Thom Gunn in *Street Song* present America as a new paradise? Critically comment with reference to the text.

### UNIT III

3. Answer *any four* of the following short questions:

4 x 4 = 16

- a) Why is Stanley subjected to bizarre interrogation?
- b) Why does Stanley attempt to strangle Meg during the birthday party celebration?
- c) Comment on the gambling motif in Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*.
- d) Comment on the importance of the boat symbolism in Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*.
- e) Comment on the significance of the following lines by Hughes:  
A pond I fished, fifty yards across,  
Whose lilies and muscular tench  
Had outlasted every visible stone  
Of the monastery that planted them—.
- f) Bring out the significance of the line, "He bit the Worm, God's only son".
- g) "And every shape defined by light". – Briefly explain how the city contributes to this.
- h) "They make you sharper while they soothe". – Briefly comment on the hallucinogenic effects implied in this line.

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