

B.A (Liberal Arts)
Core Course (CC): ENGLISH ELECTIVE

Semester-4
BLAB32402T: READING DRAMA

MAX.MARKS: 100
EXTERNAL: 70
INTERNAL: 30
PASS: 40%

Objective:

The main objective of the course is to familiarize the learners with the history of the theatre and its sub-genres through a detailed study of selected canonical British and American plays. They will be engaged in a study of the relative concepts that would further sharpen their intellectual faculties and help in developing a requisite critical insight.

Total Credits: 6

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PAPER SETTER/EXAMINER:

1. The syllabus prescribed should be strictly adhered to.
2. The question paper will consist of three sections: A, B, and C. Sections A and B will have four questions from the respective sections of the syllabus and will carry 10 marks each. The candidates will attempt two questions from each section.
3. Section C will have fifteen short answer questions covering the entire syllabus. Each question will carry 3 marks. Candidates will attempt any ten questions from this section.
4. The examiner shall give a clear instruction to the candidates to attempt questions only at one place and only once. Second or subsequent attempts, unless the earlier ones have been crossed out, shall not be evaluated.
5. The duration of each paper will be three hours.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES:

Candidates are required to attempt any two questions each from the sections A and B of the question paper and any ten short questions from Section C. They have to attempt questions only at one place and only once. Second or subsequent attempts, unless the earlier ones have been crossed out, shall not be evaluated.

Section A

Understanding Drama: Definition and Essence, Drama vs. Novel, Drama and Theatre
Dramatic action Structure, Characterization, Dialogue, Stage Directions, Dramatic Conventions

Important terms pertaining to drama and stage:

- Comic Relief
- Pathos
- Aside
- Soliloquy

William Shakespeare: Julius Caesar

Section B

Origin and Rise of Drama in English

Restoration Comedy, Poetic Drama, Closet Drama, The Problem Play, Theatre of the Absurd

Arthur Miller: The Death of a Salesman

Suggested Readings:

- Brown, John Russel, ed. The Oxford Illustrated History of Theatre. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- Leggat, Alexander. Shakespearian Tragedies. Cambridge: CUP, 2005
- Scott, McMillin. Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Comedy. New York: Norton, 1973
- Bertolt Brecht, 'The Street Scene', 'Theatre for Pleasure or Theatre for Instruction', and 'Dramatic Theatre vs Epic Theatre', in Brecht on Theatre: The Development of an Aesthetic, ed. and tr. John Willet (London: Methuen, 1992) pp. 68–76, 121–8.
- George Steiner, 'On Modern Tragedy', in The Death of Tragedy (London: Faber, 1995) pp. 303–24.