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M.A. (Semester-II) Examination - June - 2026**English Literature****Paper - VIII - MAEN-CC-204****Contemporary British Literature****Time Allowed: Three Hours****Maximum Marks: 100****This question paper contains two sections as under :****Section-A****Max. Marks-20**

Will carry 20 marks with 01 compulsory question comprising 10 short answer type questions taking two questions from each unit. Each question shall be of two marks. Word limit-20 words.

Section-B**Max. Marks-80**

Will carry 80 marks, equally divided into five long answer type questions. Paper setter shall be advised to set two questions from each unit and students are instructed to attempt five questions by selecting one question from each unit. Unit I to V will have one question on Reference to Context from each Unit. Word limit-500 words.

Note : The reference to context will be of 04 marks each combined with a 12 mark question.

Section-A**1. Answer the following Questions:-****10x2=20**

- (i) What social class do most of the wedding guests in Larkin's poem represent?
- (ii) What does the speaker conclude about work at the end in the poem Toads?
- (iii) What are the three slogans of the Party in 1984?
- (iv) What image suggests both violence and creation in the poem Autumn Chapter?
- (v) Who is the speaker addressing in No Speech from the Scaffold?
- (vi) What do Vladimir and Estragon consider doing, but never do?
- (vii) What game do they play during the birthday party?
- (viii) What collection was Hawk Roosting published in?
- (ix) What does the jaguar symbolize in Ted Hugh's poem?
- (x) What is the main character of The Power and the Glory called?

Section-B**Unit-I**

2. To what extent is Toads a social commentary on post-war Britain and the "workaday" middle class? **(12 Marks)**

Reference to Context:

Six days of the week it soils

With its sickening poison-

Just for paying a few bills!

That's out of proportion.

Lots of folk live on their wits:

Lecturers, lispers,

Losels, loblolly-men, louts-

They don't end as paupers;

(4Marks)

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OR

How do details of landscape, weather, and urban decay contribute to the poem *The Whitsun Wedding's* mood and meaning?
(12 Marks)

Reference to Context:

A hothouse flashed uniquely: hedges dipped
And rose: and now and then a smell of grass
Displaced the reek of buttoned carriage-cloth
Until the next town, new and nondescript,
Approached with acres of dismantled cars.

At first, I didn't notice what a noise
The weddings made
Each station that we stopped at:

(4 Marks)

OR

How does 1984 explore the relationship between power, sexuality, and personal loyalty? Why does the Party target love and family?
(12 Marks)

Reference to context:

It will be spring soon,
It will be spring soon-
And I, whose childhood
Is a forgotten boredom,

Fell like a child
Who comes on a scene
Of adult reconciling,
And can understand nothing
But the unusual laughter,
And starts to by happy.

(4 Marks)

Unit- II

Analyze the central tension between "movement" and "meaning" in the poem *"On the Move"*.
Do the bikers achieve authentic freedom, or are they just "escaping"?
(12 Marks)

Reference to Context:

On motorcycles, up the road, they come:
Small, black, as flies hanging in heat, the Boys,
Until the distance throws them forth, their hum
Bulges to thunder held by calf and thigh.
In goggles, donned impersonality,
In gleaming jackets trophied with the dust,
They strap in doubt-by hiding it, robust-
And almost hear a meaning in their noise.

OR

(4 Marks)

The poem was written during Gunn's move from England to America. How might Autumn Chapter reflect personal transition and exile?
(12 Marks)

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Reference to Context:

The glossy chipped
Surface of the block is like
Something for kitchen use.

And the masked man with his
Chopper: we know him: he
Works in a warehouse nearby.
Last, the prisoner, he
Is pale, he walks through
the dewy grass, nodding
A goodbye to acquaintances.

(4 Marks)

OR

Analyze Williams's view of Marxism and the "culture and society" tradition. How does he incorporate yet revise Marxist ideas? (16 Marks)

Unit – III

Analyze the role of memory and repetition in the play *Waiting for Godot*. Why do events recur, and what effect does this have on meaning? (12 Marks)

Reference to Context:

Sometimes I feel it coming all the same. Then I go all queer. (He takes off his hat, peers inside it, feels about inside it, shakes it, puts it on again.) How shall I say? Relieved and at the same time ... (he searches for the word)... appalled. (With emphasis) AP-PALLED. (He takes off his hat again, peers inside it.) Funny. (He knocks on the crown as though to dislodge a foreign body, peers into it again, puts it on again.) Nothing to be done.

(4 Marks)

OR

Is *Waiting for Godot* ultimately pessimistic or hopeful? Argue with close reference to the ending of both acts. (12 Marks)

Reference to Context:

He can no longer endure my presence. I am perhaps not particularly human, but who cares? (To Vladimir.) Think twice before you do anything rash. Suppose you go now while it is still day, for there is no denying it is still day. (They all look up at the sky.) Good. (They stop looking at the sky.) What happens in that case-(he takes the pipe out of his mouth, examines it)-I'm out-(he relights his pipe)-in that case- (puff)- in that case- (puff)- what happens in that case to your appointment with this...Godot...Godot...Godin...anyhow you see who I mean, who has your future in his hands...(pause)...at least your immediate future?

(4 Marks)

Unit- IV

Pinter is known for "Pinter pause." Analyze how silence, evasion, and non-sequiturs function in *The Birthday Party*. (12 Marks)

Reference to Context:

The secret is breathing. Take my tip. it's a well-known fact. Breath in, breath out, tale a chance, let yourself go, what can you lose? Look at me. When I was an apprentice yet, McCann, every second Friday of the month my Uncle Barney used to take me to the seaside, regular as clockwork. Brighton, Canvey Island, Rottingdean-Uncle Barney wasn't particular. After lunch on Shabbuss we'd go and sit in a couple of deck chairs-you know, the ones with canopies-we'd

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have a little paddle, we'd watch the tide coming in, going out, the sun coming down-golden days, believe me, McCann. (reminiscent.) Uncle Barney. Of course, he was an impeccable dresser. One of the old school. He had a house just outside Basingstoke at the time. respected by the whole community. Culture? Don't talk to me about culture. He was an all-round man, what do you mean? He was a cosmopolitan. (4 Marks)

OR

Compare Goldberg and McCann. How do their different backgrounds, methods, and speeches reveal Pinter's view of authority? (12 Marks)

Reference to Context:

The main issue is a singular issue and quite distinct from your previous work. Certain elements, however, might will approximate in points of procedure to some of your other activities. All is dependent on the attitude of our subject. At all events, McCann, I can assure you that the assignment will be carried out and the mission accomplished with no excessive aggravation to you or myself. Satisfied? (4 Marks)

Unit- V

6. Hawk Roosting was published in 1960 during the Cold War. To what extent can the poem be read as a political allegory about fascism or totalitarian power? (12 Marks)

Reference to Context:

My feet are locked upon the rough bark.

It took the whole of Creation

To produce my foot, my each feather:

Now I hold Creation in my foot

Or fly up, and revolve it all slowly-

I kill where I please because it is all mine.

There is no sophistry in my body:

My manners are tearing off heads-

The allotment of death. (4 Marks)

OR

- Analyze the poem's treatment of captivity vs. Freedom. Why does the jaguar's cage fail to contain him mentally, while other animals are "meshed"? (12 Marks)

Reference to Context:

From the underground stain of a decayed Viking.

They are like pale hair and the gutturals of dialects.

Every one manages a plume of blood.

Then they grow grey like men.

Mown down, it is a feud. Their sons appear

Stiff with weapons, fighting back over the same ground. (4 Marks)

OR

- To what extent is *The Power and The Glory* a political novel? Discuss Greene's treatment of persecution, revolution and totalitarianism. (16 Marks)