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UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

First Semester Examination  
2015/2016 Academic Session

December 2015/January 2016

**HXE 321 - CONTEMPORARY DRAMA**

Duration : 2 hours

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Please check that this examination paper consists of TWO printed pages before you begin the examination.

Answer any THREE questions.

1. How does the portrayal of Kitty and Vivie Warren in George Bernard Shaw's *Mrs. Warren's Profession* (1902) challenge the stereotypical conceptualisation of gender?

[100 marks]

2. Discuss the impact of the sale and destruction of the cherry orchard at the end of Anton Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard* (1904) on Madame Ranevsky and her family.

[100 marks]

3. Argue either for or against the proposition that "Willy's death shows that the American dream is a phoney dream," in Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* (1949).

[100 marks]

4. How does the setting in Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* (1948) demonstrate the concept of absurdity?

[100 marks]

5. In what ways do the respective silences of Ben and of Gus reflect Pinter's belief that speech covers the nakedness of silence in Harold Pinter's *The Dumb Waiter* (1960)?

[100 marks]