

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Pertama  
Sidang Akademik 2001/2002

September 2001

**HET 314 - Selected Works of Drama**

Masa : 3 jam

**THIS EXAMINATION PAPER CONTAINS FIVE [5] QUESTIONS IN TWO [2] PAGES.**

Answer any **FOUR [4]** questions.

1. **EITHER**

- [a] “The very last scene, after the disappearance of the old couple and the Orator’s departure, must be very long: the sound of murmuring, of wind and water, should be heard for a very long time, as though coming from nothing, coming from the void. Thus the audience will not be tempted into giving the easiest explanation of the play, the wrong one”. (Ionesco 1964 p197). Discuss the implications of this statement in relation to your reading of *The Chairs*.

[100 marks]

**OR**

- [b] What is the significance of the old couple’s suicide in *The Chairs*?

2. **EITHER**

- [a] “To know how to speak is to have power” (Schechner 1973 p29.) Discuss the significance of the statement in relation to *The Lesson*.

[100 marks]

...2/-

**OR**

[b] The characters in *The Lesson* highlight the destructive forces of social norms and conventions. Discuss.

[100 marks]

3. *The Rhinoceros* could alternatively be called *The Hippopotamus* and yet retain its fundamental message or theme, because what is important in Ionesco's play is the symbolic value of the term and not its meaning per se. Discuss.

[100 marks]

4. How dumb is the dumb waiter in Pinter's play? Discuss.

[100marks]

5. What do you understand by the term "Theatre of the Absurd?" Discuss with reference to any ONE text.

[100 marks]

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