

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Pertama

Sidang Akademik 1998/99

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HET 314/408 - Karya Drama Terpilih

Masa: [3 jam]

THIS EXAMINATION PAPER CONTAINS SEVEN (7) QUESTIONS IN ONE [1] PAGE.

Answer any **THREE** (3) questions.

Equal marks are allocated to all questions.

1. Discuss the role of the Chorus in Sophocles' *Oedipus the King*. You should refer closely to the playtext in making your answer.
2. To what extent do you think Aeschylus' *Agamemnon* can be considered a feminist play? Justify your answer by careful reference to Aeschylus' text.
3. The constant charge made by modern theatre directors against *Hamlet* is that it is one whole hour too long. If you had to abridge Shakespeare's play for the stage, which scenes would you cut? Justify your decisions carefully.
4. Contemporary audiences accused Ibsen of introducing "scandalous topics" into his dramas, topics which polite Norwegian society was at pains to avoid. From your reading of Ibsen's play, what are the 'scandalous topics' he introduces into *A Doll's House*? Refer closely to the play in making your answer.
5. Modern critics see Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard* as a darkly pessimistic drama. Do you agree or disagree? You should refer in detail to Chekhov's playtext when you make your answer.
6. In what ways does O'Neill model his play *The Iceman Cometh* along classical Greek dramatic lines? Make sure you refer closely to his play in making your answer.
7. "It is just an airy and frivolous thing. It has nothing universal or significant to say."

Do you agree, or disagree, with this assessment of Wilde's comedy *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Be sure to support your argument by detailed reference to Wilde's play.