

GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

**HISTORY OF THEATRE, COSTUME
AND LITERATURE SG
(Second Paper)**

TIME: 2½ hours

MARKS: 120

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Answer FOUR questions.
 - TWO questions from Section **A**, and
 - TWO questions from Section **B**.
 - Ensure that your answers are numbered in accordance with the numbers on the question paper.
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SECTION A
TWENTIETH CENTURY LITERATURE

Answer any TWO questions from this section.

QUESTION 1
WAR POETS

“...In times of war, there are those (soldiers) who are called upon to do the right thing... to act in defence of their own patriotism and to take up arms to protect their country’s honour...”

Write a concise essay in which you compare the views of a war poet who would support the above quotation with one who would not support it. You must refer to the poetry of these two poets in your answer. 15x2= **(30)**

QUESTION 2
SYLVIA PLATH

“...Some critics of Sylvia Plath’s poetry have described her work as complex, dark and depressing...”

Write an essay in which you either agree or disagree with the above statement. In your answer, you must refer to at least THREE of Plath’s poems to substantiate your claims. 10x3= **(30)**

QUESTION 3
EDWARD ALBEE

“...In Edward Albee’s *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, the audience is confronted by characters who all behave in strange and unexpected ways...”

Write an essay in which you explore the following:

- ♦ The conflict that exists between George and Martha
 - ♦ The conflict that arises between the two couples
 - ♦ The ways this “strange and unexpected behaviour” affect the audience
- (30)**

QUESTION 4
HAROLD PINTER

“The characters in Harold Pinter’s *The Birthday Party*, spend a considerable amount of time on stage, yet as the play draws to its conclusion, we know as much about the characters as we did when the play started...”

Discuss this statement by exploring:

- 4.1 Pinter’s unique approach to characterization. Refer to any TWO characters from *The Birthday Party*. (20)
 - 4.2 Why the characters’ strange behaviour highlights the central message of Pinter’s play. (10)
- (30)**

TOTAL FOR SECTION A: [60]

SECTION B
SOUTH AFRICAN LITERATURE

Answer any TWO questions from this section.

QUESTION 5
DOUGLAS LIVINGSTONE

“...Douglas Livingstone’s poetry displays stylistic features such as themes and images that could be described as uniquely South African...”

Write an essay that demonstrates your knowledge of the various stylistic features that typify Douglas Livingstone as a uniquely South African poet. You must refer to at least THREE of his poems to substantiate your claims. **(30)**

QUESTION 6
ATHOL FUGARD

You have decided to direct Athol Fugard's *The Road to Mecca*. At your first rehearsal, you have to brief your actors on what you regard as the most essential themes in his play.

Write an essay in which you discuss those themes that you regard as vital to an interpretation of the play. You must refer to suitable examples from the play to substantiate your claims.

(30)

QUESTION 7
GCINA MHLOPE

The school newspaper has asked you, as an actor portraying a major role in Gcina Mhlope's *Have you seen Zandile?* to give your opinions on the relevance of staging the play at your school's annual play festival.

Base your answer on any ONE major character from the play, and write down your ideas in preparation for the interview by discussing each of the following points:

- 7.1 Discuss what you regard as the most important relationship that your chosen character has with ANY of the other characters in Mhlope's play. (10)
 - 7.2 What, in your opinion, is the most important message of the play, and is this theme still relevant to audiences today? (10)
 - 7.3 Provide a brief character description of the character that you will be portraying in the school production, explaining why you think your audience would relate to this character. (10)
- (30)**

QUESTION 8
ZAKES MDA

"... Zakes Mda is credited as being one of the most prolific literary voices to have come from South Africa".

Write an essay in which you explain why you feel his work is of particular significance in the history of South African Literature. You may refer to any of the themes, characters, or images from *Ways of Dying* to substantiate your claims.

(30)

TOTAL FOR SECTION B: [60]

TOTAL: 120

END