

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For the following qualifications :-

B.A.

Scand. Studs. SC5453: The Major Plays of Ibsen

COURSE CODE : **SCAN5453**

UNIT VALUE : **0.50**

DATE : **02-MAY-02**

TIME : **10.00**

TIME ALLOWED : **3 hours**

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TURN OVER

Candidates must avoid any duplication of material within this paper, and must not cover the same ground as in an assessed or extended essay.

Answer TWO questions. All questions carry equal marks.

1. In a letter from 1870 Ibsen wrote, 'that Brand is a clergyman is really immaterial.' How far do you agree?
2. 'Peer discovers what none of Ibsen's other male protagonists do, that selfhood is only to be found in relation to another.' Discuss this view of Peer Gynt.
3. 'The play is peopled with stock characters, but the overall effect transcends the limitations of the individual parts.' Discuss this view of *Et dukkehjem*.
4. Analyse the role played by Regine and Engstrand in *Gengangere*.
5. Analyse the significance of the parental figure for ANY TWO of the following characters: Brand, Nora, Gregers Werle, Rebekka West, Hedda Gabler.
6. Analyse the significance of the setting and the references associated with it for EITHER *Vildanden*, OR *Fruen fra havet*.
7. Discuss the view that 'the structure of *Hedda Gabler* consists in a series of attempts by Hedda and others to reinstate the past into their present life, an attempt which for her culminates in the final recognition of the delusory nature of that project and her suicide'.
8. EITHER
 - a) 'In Ibsen's late plays, the most memorable episodes are no longer clashes of will but a kind of brooding over the past, as in the great elegiac scenes between Allmers and Rita, Borkman and Ella Rentheim, Rubek and Irene.' Consider this statement in relation to ONE of the plays in which these pairs of characters appear.OR
 - b) 'It is a testimony to the power of the play that it is able to survive the melodramatic nature of the characters' speeches and gestures.' Consider this statement in relation to EITHER *John Gabriel Borkman* (about which it was originally made) OR *Når vi døde vågner*.

9. 'Ibsen's numerous "temporal questions" often occupy a good share of the action and they invariably lie clearly and prominently exposed. The tragic themes often lie buried beneath the surface, especially in the later plays, and they always concern the eternal problems of man.' Discuss this view in relation to ANY ONE play by Ibsen.