



RCM Examinations

Speech Arts History and Literature Theory Level 3 Sample Exam

Candidates must answer FOUR of the following questions. Each question is worth 25 marks.

Confirmation Number

Maximum Marks

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| 25 | 1. Considering two plays from the post-war period, discuss how their styles, themes, and attitudes reflect the climate in which they were written. |
| 25 | 2. Assume you have been given the opportunity to direct any one of the plays you have studied. Describe your plans for the production, including the type of stage you would choose, the costuming, your views on the main characters, and your overall concept. |
| 25 | 3. “Great comedy does not merely entertain, but exposes and reveals society and human nature.”

Using the 17th or 18th century comedy you have studied, discuss. |
| 25 | 4. Provide a significant biography of one of the playwrights of the early 20th century, and discuss how their life and work reflected and affected the theatrical and social period in which they wrote. |
| 25 | 5. “Much of 20th-century literature is concerned with man’s attempt to make sense of a world which makes no sense because the moral, religious, political, and social structures man has erected to ‘illusion’ himself have collapsed.”

Referring to at least two of the 20th-century plays you have studied, discuss the theatre’s struggle to find and create meaning. |
| 25 | 6. “The realists of the 19th century were inspired by scientific revolution that looked at human beings not as the centre of the universe but as another subject for scientific study.”

Discuss the rise of realism in relation to the 19th-century play. |