

**ST.JOSEPH’S COLLEGE, BENGALURU -27**

**BA– IV SEMESTER EXAMINATION APRIL 2023**

**(Examination conducted in May 2023)**

**THEATRE STUDIES-IV (TS 422)**

**Time- 2 hours Max Marks: 60**

**Instructions:**

**1. You are allowed to use a dictionary.**

**2. This question paper has THREE sections and TWO printed sheets.**

**3. You will lose marks for exceeding the word limit.**

**I. Read the following excerpt from *The Bald Soprano* and answer the following questions.**

MRS. MARTIN : Well, today, when I went shopping to buy some

vegetables, which are getting to be dearer and dearer . . .

MRS. SMITH : Where is it all going to end!

MR. SMITH : You shouldn't interrupt, my dear, it's very rude.

MRS MARTIN : In the street, near a cafe, I saw a man, properly

dressed, about fifty years old, or not even that, who . . .

MR. SMITH: Who, what?

MRS. SMITH : Who, what?

MR. SMITH [to his wife] : Don't interrupt, my dear, you're

disgusting.

MRS. SMITH : My dear, it is you who interrupted first, you boor.

MR. SMITH [to his wife] : Hush. [To Mrs. Martin : ] What was

this man doing?

MRS. MARTIN : Well, I'm sure you'll say that I'm making it

up--he was down on one knee and he was bent over.

MR. MARTIN, MR. SMITH, MRS. SMITH : Oh !

MRS. MARTIN : Yes, bent over.

MR. SMITH: Not possible.

MRS. MARTIN: Yes, bent over. I went near him to see what

he was doing . . .

MR. SMITH: And?

MRS. MARTIN: He was tying his shoe lace which had come

undone.

MR. MARTIN, MR. SMITH, MRS. SMITH: Fantastic!

MR. SMITH: If someone else had told me this, I'd not believe it.

MR. MARTIN: Why not? One sees things even more extraordinary

every day, when one walks around. For instance,

today in the Underground I myself saw a man, quietly

sitting on a seat, reading his newspaper.

**I.A.** **Answer the following questions in about five sentences each. (3x5=15)**

1. Why do you think Mr Martin exclaims “extraordinary”? What is the idea of the ‘extraordinary’ here?
2. “MR. SMITH: Who, what? MRS. SMITH: Who, what?” Why do you think the characters exclaim in such a manner? What does it tell us about their relationship?
3. “MR. SMITH [to his wife]: Don't interrupt, my dear, you're disgusting.

MRS. SMITH: My dear, it is you who interrupted first, you boor.” What about this exchange strikes you as odd?

**II. Answer the following questions in 100-150 words each. (3X10=30)**

1. *The Bald Soprano* is titled an “anti play”. Imagine you are to stage the Bald Soprano on the Bangalore Metro. How would you stage this ‘play’?
2. Martin Esslin writes, “It is in its attitude to language that the Theatre of the Absurd is most revolutionary. It deliberately attempts to renew the language of drama and to expose the barrenness of conventional stage dialogue” Do you agree? How do you think language functions in the realm of the ‘absurd’?
3. Explain the concepts of ‘anti reason’ and pataphysics.

**III. Read the following excerpt and respond to the question below: (15 Marks)**

“There it is, there!’ someone else shouted. ‘He’s holding it in his hands! See the gold shining!’

‘How did he manage to find it, I’d like to know?’ a large boy shouted angrily. ‘Twenty bars a day I’ve been buying for weeks and weeks!’

‘Think of all the free stuff he’ll be getting too!’ another boy said enviously. ‘A lifetime supply!’

‘He’ll need it, the skinny little shrimp!’ a girl said, laughing.”

*Excerpt From: Roald Dahl. “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (Puffin Modern Classics relaunch)”*

1. Develop a scene of 15-20 lines between two characters for children’s theatre with five stage directions using the following prompt.

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