

English Compulsory

Sample Test Paper

Time: 3 hours

Max Marks: 100

1. Some people believe that theatre began in ancient Greece, where myths and legends were narrated by a group of people called the Chorus, who chanted their lines to **enthralled** audiences. Then came the idea of including the dramatic impersonation of someone in the storyline, in other words acting, and an actor was introduced into the performance. Plots were made more complicated by the addition of a second or even third actor, although the scope for convincing acting was limited by the fact that the actors wore masks to represent the characters they were portraying. Greek plays were performed in honour of the Greek gods and took place during the major spring festival, when people flocked to the open-air hillside amphitheatres to be informed and entertained. At first, only tragedies were performed, but the introduction of comedy, with its often cruel **satire** of contemporary society, appealed to the ordinary people, thus increasing the popularity of drama.
2. In Roman times, the public enjoyed a varied range of entertainment, often involving spectacular contests between gladiators and animals, which took place in massive, purpose-built arenas. Going to the theatre was also a popular feature of life, where the development of a secondary story, or sub-plot, made plays more sophisticated by enabling audiences to look at the lives of more than one set of characters in the same play.
3. Later, throughout Europe, groups of street actors, often accompanied by acrobats and animals, moved from town to town, performing for a succession of appreciative audiences; towns were **enlivened** at the news of approaching players, and a great buzz ensued. Through time, permanent buildings for the production of plays were established, bringing audiences to the theatre rather than the other way round. It is estimated that in sixteenth-century London, for example, one in eight adults went to the theatre every week. Around the world, various forms of theatre evolved, like the shadow puppets of Malaysia, and Japanese Noh theatre in which actors sing and dance scenes from legends with an immense slowness and solemnity which is particularly moving.
4. Today, theatre continues to attract people all over the world. Because plays are performed live, every performance is different. It is this **dynamic** nature of theatre which means that live performances are always better than films. Being gripped by the unfolding story of a play can be an excellent form of relaxation, and for many the experience of being transported into another setting or into someone else's life – sometimes described as suspending disbelief – is fascinating. Moreover, theatre lovers enjoy marvelling at the skill of the actors, which is why theatre acting is much more challenging than acting in front of a camera. Empathising with the characters' stories can make audiences relate them to their own lives and use them to help in making decisions or even solving problems. The cleansing emotional experience – or **catharsis** – brought about by watching drama can be good for mental health. This makes theatre a more satisfying emotional experience than cinema.
5. A trip to the theatre can bring families together, for example during national holidays or celebrations, giving family members the opportunity to enjoy a common experience. Technological advances in recent times – such as in lighting and special effects – can make theatre a **spectacle** as well as a play. In future, technological developments will provide audiences with even more sensational and thrilling experiences. In addition, theatre sometimes offers the opportunity of being part of a tradition. An example of this is a play called The Mousetrap, the longest running play in the world, where the attraction is not just the drama itself, but also being part of a large, world-wide, 'secret' group who share the knowledge of the identity of the villain. And of course, theatre audiences, often without realising the fact, are part of an even longer tradition, one going back to those Greek choruses, thousands of years ago.

Q1) Read the passage above carefully and then answer the questions in your own words:

- I. Why did the fact that the actors wore masks limit the scope for convincing acting?(2)
- II. Why do you think the satire appealed to the common people? (2)
- III. Why does the author consider live performances to be better than films? (2)
- IV. What is this 'suspending disbelief' the author talks about in paragraph four and why do people find it fascinating? (3)
- V. What makes theatre a more satisfying experience than cinema? (2)
- VI. How does theatre offer an opportunity of being part of a tradition? (2)
- VII. Suggest a suitable title for the text. (1)
- VIII. For each of the words, choose the letter (A, B, C or D) which has the same meaning that the word has in the passage. (6)

1. Enthralled (1) A. Fascinated B. Happy C. Angry D. Laughing	2. Satire (1) A. Humor B. Priority given to the rulers C. Sarcasm used to expose folly D. Spiritual guidance	3. Distinction (3) A. Deadened B. Energized C. Boring D. Satisfied
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4. Dynamic (4) A. To celebrate with fervor B. Lethargic C. Energetic D. Fast	5. Catharsis (4) A. Propagating emotion B. Emotional response to something C. Important D. Purification of emotion	6. Spectacle (5) A. An eye-catching display B. An object of contempt C. Entertaining D. Drama
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IX. Summarize how theatre has evolved and the advantages it has for people **in your own words.** (10)

Q2) Fill in the blanks with the correct articles: (10)

Q3) Fill in the blanks with the correct verb forms: (10)

Q4) Read the following sentences carefully and decide whether they are facts or opinions (5)

- I. Robert Frost is a very good poet.
- II. Short stories are easy to read.
- III. Two plus two makes four.
- IV. Coffee is made from cocoa beans
- V. Dark coffee is the best coffee.

Q5) Rearrange the following group of sentences to form a coherent paragraph (5)

- I. Later on, people began to write on pieces of leather, which were rolled into scrolls.
- II. In the earliest times, people carved or painted messages on rocks.
- III. In the Middle Ages, heavy paper called parchment was used for writing and books were laboriously copied by hand.
- IV. With the invention of the printing press in the middle of the fifteenth century, the modern printing industry was born.
- V. Some form of written communication has been used throughout the centuries.

Q6) Fill in the blanks using the following modals: (10)

may, must, can, will, should

- I. You _____ practice your grammar if you want to pass the test.
- II. It is a hospital. You _____ not smoke.
- III. You _____ make tomato soup for dinner if you want.
- IV. Despite the fever, I _____ go to the university tomorrow.
- V. Despite the fever, I _____ go to the university tomorrow because I have my final exam.

Now use two of them in sentences of your own. Also specify their functions in your sentences.

Q7) Rewrite the following sentences correctly. Also identify the error. Sentences with comma splice should be corrected using subordinating conjunctions. (10)

1. Ali eating dinner.
2. Not only Ali but also Ali's friends likes pizza.
3. We are going to the market we are going to get ice cream.
4. I don't like chocolate itself, I like chocolate ice cream.
5. He likes eating, swimming, and to ski.

Q8) Brainstorm and write a paragraph on any one of the following topics: (20)

- I. A bowl of custard
- II. Importance of Education
- III. My experience at this department has so far been _____