



**Hoërskool Johan Jurgens**

**Dramatic Arts**

**Cycle Test**

**Grade 12**

**Time: 1 Hour**

**Marks: 50**

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<b>Examiner:</b> S.Radebe	
<b>DH :</b> N. Claassen	

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**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Ensure that you answer **all** the questions.
2. Read the questions thoroughly before answering.
3. Number the answers correctly according to the numbering system used in this question paper.
4. Write neatly and legibly.
5. Pay attention to mark allocation.
6. Whilst classroom knowledge can be used to answer questions set, independent, creative thinking and application of skills, knowledge, attitudes and values will be to your advantage.

## Question 1: Absurd Theatre

### Source A

Read the following extract and then answer the question that follow

“It is a play in which nothing happens twice...  
‘Nothing happens, nobody comes ... nobody goes, it’s awful!’.”  
This highlights Beckett’s deliberate use of repetition, lack of plot and purposeless action which are all key characteristics of the Theatre of the Absurd.  
-IMDBWaitingForGodot

### Question 1

**1.1** In *Waiting for Godot*, Samuel Beckett presents a world that is absurd and seemingly meaningless.

In a well-developed paragraph, explain how Beckett uses either the theme of waiting, repetition or the breakdown of communication to convey the ideas of Absurd Theatre.

Refer to at least one character and one example from the play in your answer.

**(10)**

### Source B

Read the following extract and then answer the questions that follow

“The Theatre of the Absurd expresses the anxiety of modern humanity by presenting life as meaningless, illogical and repetitive. Traditional plot and realistic characters are often rejected.”  
- *Teatro, WFG review*

**1.2** Explain what is meant by the term ‘Theatre of the Absurd.’ **(2)**

**1.3** Using **Source B**, identify **two** ways in which Absurd Theatre differs from Realistic Theatre. **(4)**

**1.4** Explain how *Waiting for Godot* reflects the Absurd view of human existence. **(4)**

**1.5** Discuss how spectacle in *WFG* was used by Samuel Beckett in the play text to reveal social, political and economic issues. **(6)**

**[26]**

## Question 2: Performance and Directing

Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow.

### Source C

Vladimir and Estragon stand beside a bare tree.  
They speak in short, broken sentences. After a long pause, they consider leaving, but do not move.

-AbsurdistsPlaytext\_StudyGuide.

- 2.1 Identify **one** convention of Absurd theatre evident in this extract. Motivate your answer using the source. (3)
- 2.2 As an actor, explain how you would use voice and movement to communicate the sense of waiting and frustration in this scene. (4)
- 2.3 As a director, suggest how you would use acting styles to reinforce the ideologies of Absurdism in the play text. Justify your answer. (4)

[11]

### Question 3

- 3.1 Explain how the character of Godot, despite never appearing on stage, remains central to the structure and meaning of the play. (4)
- 3.2 Critically discuss whether Waiting for Godot can still be considered relevant to a modern South African audience. Refer to themes and human experience in your answer. (6)  
Characters in Absurdist plays were representational.
- 3.3 Identify one character except for Godot and give clear explanation on who/what the character mentioned represents. (3)

[13]

**Test Total: 50 Marks**