CONTEMPORARY THEATRE IN ENGLISH

KICK-OFF QUESTIONNAIRE

1. What do you know about contemporary British and Irish theatre?

2. Can you name three contemporary British playwrights?

3. Can you name three contemporary Irish playwrights?

4. Are you familiar with the following concepts: dramatic shape, character, dialogue, stage directions, stage picture? What are they about?

5. What is bourgeois theatre?

6. What is naturalism?

7. What is the fourth wall?
8. What is teleology?

9. What are Aristotle’s unities?

10. Who was Konstantin Stanislavsky? What famous acting school in the US adopted his techniques?

11. What is radical theatre?

12. What do you know about the ‘theatre of the absurd’ movement?

13. Who was Bertolt Brecht? Can you name any well-known feature of his theatre?

14. What is defamiliarisation?

15. What is postdramatic theatre?
16. What changes took place in British theatre in the 1950s?

17. What is a ‘kitchen-sink’ play?

18. Who was Samuel Beckett? Can you name any of his plays, apart from *Waiting for Godot*?

19. Can you identify some of the main topics to be found in *Waiting for Godot*?

20. Can you name three major historical events from the 1960s?

21. Why is 1968 a significant year in British theatre history?

22. Who was Harold Pinter? Can you name any of his plays, apart from *The Homecoming*?

23. Can you identify some of the main topics to be found in *The Homecoming*?
24. Who is Caryl Churchill? Can you name any of her plays, apart from *Top Girls*?

25. Can you identify some of the main topics to be found in *Top Girls*?

26. Can you name other contemporary women playwrights apart from Caryl Churchill?

27. What do you know about the development of the Anglo-American feminist movement?

28. Who was Margaret Thatcher? When did she first become Prime Minister? What are the main characteristics of the period known as Thatcherism?

29. What major event took place in the city of Berlin in 1989? What were its consequences?

30. Who was Sarah Kane? Can you name any of her plays?

31. When did Tony Blair’s New Labour come to power?
32. What is ‘in-yr-face’ theatre? Who coined this label? Can you name any playwrights whose work has been described as ‘in-yr-face’?

33. Which war took place in Europe in the 1990s?

34. Can you identify some of the main topics to be found in Blasted?