

Sl. No. of Ques. Paper : 7919

GC

Unique Paper Code : 12031101

Name of Paper : Indian Classical Literature

Name of Course : B.A. (Hons.) English

Semester : I

Duration : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 75

(Write your Roll No. on the top immediately on receipt of this question paper.)

Attempt all questions.

Question Nos. 1, 2, 3 are of 10 marks each.

Question Nos. 4, 5, 6 are of 15 marks each.

SECTION A

1. "There are three who own no property,
A student, a slave, a dependent woman:
The wife of a slave, you are *his* now, my dear;
A masterless slave wench, you are now slave wealth!"

Contextualize the above extract and critically comment on the power relations in the world of *The Mahābhārata*. 10

Or

Critically comment on the "Prologue" to *Abhijnānaśākuntalam*. 10

2. Comment on Kannaki's apotheosis in "The Book of Vanci". 10

Or

Comment on the valorisation of the king in "The Book of Vanci". 10

3. Critically analyse the role of Maitreya in *Mrichchhakaṭika*. 10

Or

What is a *prakaraṇa*? Discuss with reference to *Mrichchhakaṭika*. 10

SECTION B

4. Do you agree that "The Book of Vanci" is more about masculine enterprise of war and imperial expansion than feminine values of self-effacement, forgiveness and chastity? 15

Or

In *Mrichchhakaṭika*, Śūdraka gives us an unconventional hero in Chārudatta. Unlike Kalidasa's protagonists, here the hero is not royal but a man whose profession is inconsistent with his caste. Similarly, the heroine is not a coy maiden but a public woman who exercises a sexual/social choice by choosing merit over money. Discuss. 15

5. Distinguish between the Śakuntalā episode in *The Mahābhārata* and in *Abhijnānaśākuntalam*. 15

Or

Discuss the evocation of the *vīra* (heroic) and the *śṛṅgāra* (erotic) rasa in *Abhijnānaśākuntalam*. 15

6. The Dicing episode provides a critique of the heroic ideal in the *Mahābhārata*. Critically comment. 15

Or

If Arjun is the conventional hero of the epic, Karna is a tragic hero. Do you agree? 15