

This question paper contains 3 printed pages]

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S.No. of Question Paper : 2125

Unique Paper Code : 2032101103

Name of the Paper : Indian Classical Literature

Name of the Course : B.A. (Honours) English

Semester : I

Duration : 3 Hours

Maximum Marks : 90

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

This question paper contains 2 parts : Part A & Part B. Both parts are compulsory.

Candidates have to answer *all* questions in part A and any *three* questions in part B.

Questions in part A carry 10 marks each and questions in part B carry 20 marks each.

PART-A

1. (A) Write a short note on the character and role of Vidura in *The Mahābhārata*.

Or

- (B) Discuss the significance of Vikarna's protest during the disrobing of Draupadi.

2. (A) "Well then, I shall leave; but I must travel in a manner befitting the younger brother of the King."

Based on your understanding of the above lines, elaborate on the role of its speaker in *Abhijñānaśākuntalam*.

Or

- (B) Briefly discuss the context and the text of the love letter written by Śakuntalā in *Abhijñānaśākuntalam*.

P.T.O.

3. (A) He said :

“The image of Pattini was installed

In it, engraved by skilled hands on the stone

Brought from the slopes of the Himalayas, the home

Of the gods, after prayers to Siva who resides there.”

Explain the above lines with reference to context.

Or

- (B) Write a short note on the idea of kingship as it is presented in “The Book of Vañci.”

PART-B

4. (A) Discuss the character and ethical fortitude of Karna in the episode of his temptation by Krishna in *The Mahābhārata*.

Or

- (B) Critically comment upon the significance of Draupadi's questions in the game of dicing episode in *The Mahābhārata*.

5. (A) “From love to separation to reunion, the two ashrams of Kanva and Mārīca are spaces of introspection and recognition in *Abhijñānaśākuntalam*.” Discuss.

Or

- (B) With special emphasis on Duṣṇanta's character, discuss how he turned the “penance-grove into a pleasure garden ?”

6. (A) “The Book of Vañci” explores the themes of justice, morality and righteousness in society.

Or

- (B) Write an essay comparing the cities and forests/hills as sites of culture, religion and identity in *The Cilappatikāram*.

7. (A) The centrality of love as a dominant sentiment is integral to the understanding of Indian classical literature. In this context, discuss any *two* texts from the paper which focus on the idea of love.

Or

- (B) “The questions posed by women protagonists form the basis of complex debates on *dharma* (duty) and *karma* (action) in Indian narrative tradition.” Discuss this statement in the context of any *two* characters from the texts prescribed in this paper.