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1 SEM TDC ENGH (CBCS) C 1

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(November)

ENGLISH

(Core)

Paper : C-1

(Indian Classical Literature)

Full Marks : 80

Pass Marks : 32

Time : 3 hours

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks
for the questions*

UNIT—I

(Classical Sanskrit Drama)

1. Answer any one of the following : 15

- (a) How does Kalidasa explore the theme of love and separation in *Abhijnana-shakuntalam*? How do these themes contribute to the overall message of the play?

(Turn Over)

(2)

- (b) Examine the character of Shakuntala in the context of ancient Indian ideals of womanhood. How does she embody qualities such as purity, devotion and grace? In what ways does Shakuntala challenge or conform to these ideals?
- (c) *Abhijnanashakuntalam* is known for its rich interplay of different *rasas* (emotional essences). Analyse and comment.

2. Answer any one of the following :

5

- (a) What is the role of Rishi Kanva in Shakuntala's life?
- (b) What role do Shakuntala's friends, Anasuya and Priyamvada, play in the story?
- (c) How does the curse of Sage Durvasa affect the plot of the play?

(3)

UNIT—II

(Selections from Epic Sanskrit Literature)

3. Answer any one of the following :

15

- (a) Discuss the immediate and long-term consequences of the 'Dicing' episode on both the Pandavas and the Kauravas. How do the events of this episode set the stage for the eventual conflict in the *Mahabharata*?
- (b) Analyse Draupadi's role in the 'Sequel to Dicing' and how she challenges the concept of *dharma* (righteousness) through her questions in the Kaurava court. How does her confrontation with the Kauravas and her demand for justice highlight the complexities of *dharma* in the *Mahabharata*?

4. Answer any one of the following :

5

- (a) What was the primary reason Yudhishtira agreed to participate in the game of dice? How did Yudhishtira's gambling affect his brothers and Draupadi?
- (b) Which character tried to intervene during Draupadi's disrobing and what was the result?
- (c) What offer did Krishna make to Karna during the 'Temptation of Karna'?

UNIT—III

(Sanskrit Drama)

5. Answer any one of the following :

15

- (a) Examine the portrayal of women in *Mrichchhakatika*. How does the play challenge or reinforce gender norms and expectations?

- (b) In what ways does *Mrichchhakatika* critique the social and economic inequalities of ancient Indian society?
- (c) Discuss the significance of the clay cart as a symbol in the play. How does it reflect the themes of impermanence and social status?

6. Answer any one of the following :

5

- (a) Critically analyse the character of Charudatta.
- (b) What is the role of the courtesan in the plot of *Mrichchhakatika*?
- (c) How does the play portray the concept of justice?

UNIT—IV

(Classical Assamese Drama)

7. Answer any one of the following :

15

- (a) Analyse how Shankardeva integrates cosmic and earthly themes in *Parijata Harana*. How does the play juxtapose cosmic events with earthly concerns, and what does this integration reveal about the relationship between the divine and the mundane?
- (b) Analyse the portrayal of Krishna in *Parijata Harana*. How does Krishna's character embody the qualities of divine playfulness, wisdom and strategic prowess?
- (c) Analyse the dramatic structure and literary devices employed by Shankardeva in *Parijata Harana*.

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(Continued)

8. Answer any one of the following :

5

- (a) What role does Krishna play in the resolution of central conflict in *Parijata Harana*?
- (b) How is the theme of divine rivalry portrayed in *Parijata Harana*?
- (c) Which character initially acquires the Parijata tree, and what is the reaction of other characters?

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