

This question paper contains 2 printed pages.

Your Roll No. ....

Sl. No. of Ques. Paper : 1182  
Unique Paper Code : 203404  
Name of Paper : Classical Literature II  
Name of Course : B.A. (Hons.) English  
Semester : IV  
Duration : 3 hours

F

Maximum Marks : 75

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

Attempt all four questions.

The first question has three parts (a, b and c), each of which is to be attempted.

1.

a. "Brahmins in a spirit of love, barons because they were defeated, commoners and serfs because they were obedient brought gifts, and out of affection and respect all the barbarians, of all classes, high and low-born, waited on Yudhishthira."

Critically comment on the function of Yudhishthira's *Rajasuya yagnya* (Royal Consecration) as discussed in the Game of Dice section of the *Mahabharata*. 10

OR

Critically analyse the representation of Karna in the Game of Dice episode of the *Mahabharata*.

b. "...because you are lost in the thought of one to the exclusion of all else, you shall be lost in his thoughts..."

Critically analyse the structural and thematic importance of the device of the curse in Kalidasa's play *Abhijnanasakuntalam*. 10

OR

Critically comment on the roles of Anasuya and Priyamvada in *Abhijnanasakuntalam*.

c. "Where will you find the boldness for such a fearful deed? And in the fearful act, as you bring death upon your children, how will you prepare hand and heart? How will you look upon your children and in the act of slaying them refrain from weeping? When your children fall down and beg for mercy, you will not be able to dip your hand in blood with a heart that does not falter"

Critically examine the tension between motherhood and violence in the given passage. 10

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OR

Critically comment on Jason's perception of Medea as a 'barbarian' in the play *Medea*.

2. Do you think that Draupadi successfully destabilizes the authority of 'the books' on wifehood, or do her questions and the responses they evoke reinscribe scriptural power? Discuss with reference to the Game of Dice episode of the *Mahabharata*. 15

OR

"...the King should endeavor always to think of his own profit."  
Does Duryodhana's principle apply to Yudhishthira as well in the Game of Dice episode of the *Mahabharata*? Give a reasoned answer.

3. Do you agree with the view that *Abhijnanasakuntalam* hints at the conflict between two kinds of power, that of the *rishi* and that of the king? Give a reasoned answer. 15

OR

What role does forgetting and remembering play in *Abhijnanasakuntalam*'s construction of erotic love?

4. Critically examine the conclusion of *Medea*. Does the end enact the fulfillment of justice or its absolute violation? 15

OR

How do the minor characters in the play *Medea* offer a critique of hierarchies of class and gender? Discuss with reference to the Nurse and the Tutor.