



'समानो मन्त्रः समितिः समानी'

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL

B.A. Honours 2nd Semester Examination, 2023

CC3-ENGLISH

INDIAN CLASSICAL LITERATURE AND INDIAN WRITING IN ENGLISH

Time Allotted: 2 Hours

Full Marks: 60

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

1. Answer any **one** from the following questions: 10×1 = 10

(a) The idea of Dharma is central to *The Mahabharata*. Discuss with reference to the sections prescribed in the syllabus.

OR

(b) Analyse the moral and ethical dilemma of Karna in *The Mahabharata*.

(c) How far is the title of *Abhijnana Shakuntalam* justified? Elaborate.

OR

(d) Assess the role of Nature in *Abhijnana Shakuntalam*.

(e) Would you consider *Mrcchakatika* to be a play about a distinct redefinition of love? Argue your answer.

OR

(f) Write a critical note on the character of Charudatta as presented in *Mrcchakatika*.

2. Answer any **one** from the following questions: 10×1 = 10

(a) Justify the title of Anita Desai's *In Custody*.

OR

(b) What are the main themes that Anita Desai deals with in the novel *In Custody*?

(c) Examine R. K. Narayan's depiction of youth, innocence and friendship in *Swami and Friends*.

OR

(d) Comment on the portrayal of the women characters in *Swami and Friends*.

3. Answer any **two** from the following questions: 5×2 = 10

(a) What is the significance of the Court scene (Act IX) in *Mrcchakatika*?

(b) Briefly discuss Rishi Kanva's counsels to Shakuntala regarding a happy marital life.

- (c) What preparations did Swaminathan make for Rajam's visit to his house?
- (d) What were the reasons of animosity between Mani and Rajam?
- (e) Comment briefly on the significance of the game of dice in *The Mahabharata*.
- (f) Provide a brief character sketch of Murad.

4. Answer any **one** from the following questions: 10×1 = 10

- (a) Bring out the elements of melancholy underlying "My Grandmother's House".
- (b) Consider Derozio as a "carrier of modern values of justice, freedom and equality" with special reference to "Freedom to the Slave".
- (c) Evaluate Nissim Ezekiel as a modern poet with reference to the poems on your syllabus.
- (d) Critically appreciate Mahapatra's "Hunger".

5. Answer any **one** from the following questions: 10×1 = 10

- (a) Evaluate Rushdie as a post-colonial writer with reference to "The Free Radio".
- (b) Assess "The Intrusion" as a feminist text.
- (c) Analyse the character and role of Lalla Jhinda Ram in "Two Lady Rams".
- (d) Comment on Rohinton Mistry's depiction of Indian diaspora in "Swimming Lesson".

6. Answer any **two** from the following questions: 5×2 = 10

- (a) Describe the narrator's first day experience of his swimming lessons.
- (b) What is the setting of "Dawn at Puri"?
- (c) Bring out the central idea of "The Orphan Girl".
- (d) How did the peasants respond to the stinging in "The Night of the Scorpion"?
- (e) "I, too call myself I"— Explain with reference to the context.
- (f) What happens when Sir Jhinda arrives with his two wives at the Government House?
- (g) Comment on the ending of "The Free Radio".
- (h) Why does the husband in "The Intrusion" feel that his wife has been avoiding him?

—x—