



বিদ্যাসাগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
VIDYASAGAR UNIVERSITY
Question Paper

B.A. Honours Examinations 2022

(Under CBCS Pattern)

Semester - VI

Subject : ENGLISH

Paper : C 13-T

Indian Classical Literature

Full Marks : 60

Time : 3 Hours

Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

1. Answer any *three* of the following questions :

10×3=30

- (a) Discuss the treatment of Sringara Rasa (erotic emotion) in Kalidasa's *Abhijnana Shakuntalam*.
- (b) Analyse the character of Shakuntala as represented in *Abhijnana Shakuntalam*.
- (c) Comment on the moral dilemma in Vyasa's *The Mahabharata*.
- (d) Discuss the significance of Krishna's role in 'The Dicing' episode of *The Mahabharata*.
- (e) Critically assess Sudraka's *Mrcchakatika* as a 'Prakarana'.

2. Answer any *four* of the following questions :

5×4=20

- (a) Write a short note on the dramatic significance of the Curse and the Ring Episode in *Abhijnana Shakuntalam*.
- (b) Comment on the role of Madhavya in *Abhijnana Shakuntalam*.
- (c) Why is the scene of 'The Temptation of Karna' an important event?
- (d) What was the secret behind Shakuni's dice?
- (e) Give an example of Sudraka's use of humour in *Mrcchakatika*.
- (f) Briefly comment upon the subplot of hummour in *Mrcchakatika*.

3. Answer any *five* of the following questions :

2×5=10

- (a) What is 'benediction'?
 - (b) Why did Durvasa curse Shakuntala in *Abhijnana Shakuntalam*?
 - (c) What is Gandharva marriage?
 - (d) What did Kunti inform Karna about?
 - (e) Mention the two boons that Draupadi accepts from Dhritarashtra.
 - (f) What is the stake in the second round of dicing in *The Mahabharata*?
 - (g) Why did Vasantasena load the little clay cart with jewellery?
 - (h) Why was Charudatta prosecuted in Sudraka's *Mrcchakatika*?
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Semester - VI

Subject : ENGLISH

Paper : C 14-T

Indian Writing in English

Full Marks : 60

Time : 3 Hours

Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

1. Answer any *three* of the following questions : 10×3=30
- (a) Comment on the symbolic significance of the 'harp' in "The Harp of India".
 - (b) Bring out the appropriateness of the title of Kamala Das's "An Introduction".
 - (c) Discuss R. K. Narayan's *Swami and Friends* as a Bildungsroman.
 - (d) How does Mulk Raj Anand in "Two Lady Rams" portray the socio-economic impact of the Indian caste system?
 - (e) Consider *Tughlaq* as a critique of contemporary politics.
2. Answer any *four* of the following questions : 5×4=20
- (a) Examine the domestic life portrayed in R. K. Narayan's *Swami and Friends*.

- (b) Comment on the last two lines of “Night of the Scorpion”.
- (c) “I too call myself I”—Bring out the significance of the quoted line.
- (d) Comment on the theme of illusion in Salman Rushdie’s “The Free Radio”.
- (e) Briefly illustrate any two symbols in Karnad’s *Tughlaq*.
- (f) Briefly discuss any two elements of the ‘Company Natak’ in *Tughlaq*?

3. Answer any *five* of the following questions :

2×5=10

- (a) State the reasons behind hartal and strike in R. K. Narayan’s *Swami and Friends*.
 - (b) What does the Cane symbolize in R. K. Narayan’s *Swami and Friends*?
 - (c) Cite with references from the text two poetic devices used in “The Harp of India”.
 - (d) How and why did the speaking subject in “An Introduction” ignore her “womanliness”?
 - (e) Why did the scorpion in Ezekiel’s “Night of the Scorpion” risk the rain again?
 - (f) Who are the two Lady Rams? Why are they so called?
 - (g) What is ‘nasbandi’?
 - (h) Why did Tughlaq change his capital from Delhi to Daulatabad?
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Semester - VI

Subject : ENGLISH

Paper : DSE 3-T

Full Marks : 60

Time : 3 Hours

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Science Fiction and Detective Literature

1. Answer any *three* of the following questions : 10×3=30

- (a) Consider *The Woman in White* as a 'sensation' novel.
- (b) Write a note on the portrayal of the patriarchal manipulation of lunacy in the narrative style of *The Woman in White*.
- (c) How does Wilkie Collins use premonitions, coincidences and dreams to foreshadow key events in *The Woman in White*? Elaborate in detail.
- (d) Comment on the role of Watson as a narrator in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.
- (e) Write a note on the conflict between rationalism and superstition as represented by Doyle in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

2. Answer any *four* of the following questions :

5×4=20

- (a) How does Wilkie Collins explore the themes of respectability and social class in *The Woman in White*?
- (b) How do Laura and her female counterparts exhibit rebellion in Wilkie Collins's novel *The Woman in White*?
- (c) Critically examine Walter's first eerie encounter with Anne in *The Woman in White*.
- (d) How does Holmes solve the mystery of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*?
- (e) What does *The Hound of the Baskervilles* say about untrustworthy eyewitnesses?
- (f) What is the significance of Dr. Mortimer's walking stick in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*?

3. Answer any *five* of the following questions :

2×5=10

- (a) What is Walter Hartright's profession in *The Woman in White*?
 - (b) How does Marian propose to try and find out more information about the mysterious woman in white?
 - (c) Who is the woman in white? Why is she called so?
 - (d) Why is Pesca devoted to Walter Hartright in *The Woman in White*?
 - (e) What does Holmes ask Watson to examine at the beginning of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*?
 - (f) How did Sir Charles die in the *The Hound of the Baskervilles*?
 - (g) Why does Sir Henry lose two boots in London in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*?
 - (h) What was the Baskerville curse and who took advantage of it?
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Or,

Paper - DSE 3-T

Literature and Cinema

1. Answer any *three* of the following questions : 10×3=30

- (a) What are the significant features of the adaptation of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* in Zeffirelli's *Romeo & Juliet*?
- (b) Analyse the ending of Baz Luhrmann's *Romeo + Juliet* (1968).
- (c) Comment on the cinematic representation of communal tension in *Earth*.
- (d) How is the syncretic culture of pre-Partition Punjab presented in either *Pinjar* or *Earth*?
- (e) What light does the sub-plot of the madwoman throw on the main narrative of *Pinjar*?

2. Answer any *four* of the following questions : 5×4=20

- (a) How is it significant that it is only Rashid and Hamida who are in sympathy with the plight of the madwoman in *Pinjar*?
- (b) Comment briefly on the parallel between Pooro/Hamida and Lajjo's tattooing of their names on their hands.
- (c) Comment on the cinematic use of music in *Pinjar*.
- (d) Comment on the significance of Lenny's breaking crockery in the opening sequence of *Earth*.
- (e) How is the scene of the Ice-candy Man's telephoning Allah revealing of the relationship between various religious communities in Lahore at that moment in history?
- (f) Comment on the transformation that the Ice-candy Man undergoes in *Earth*.

3. Answer any *five* of the following questions : 2×5=10

- (a) In *Pinjar*, what are the books Ram Chand intends to translate, and from which languages into which?
- (b) What is the reason why Rashid's uncle insists on revenge, and what is the dilemma Rashid finds himself in?

- (c) What circumstances lead to Puro's meeting Ram Chand in Rattoval after her *nikah* with Rashid?
 - (d) In *Earth*, what does Lenny learn about the Parsees as her mother teaches her ballroom dancing?
 - (e) What happens in Lahore when the first trains arrive there from what is going to be Hindustan?
 - (f) What suggestion does Lenny's mother have for Ayah for her safety as Partition seems imminent?
 - (g) Who directed the 1968 adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet*?
 - (h) Which company produced *Romeo + Juliet* and in which year?
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Full Marks : 60

Time : 3 Hours

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Partition Literature

1. Answer any *three* of the following questions : 10×3=30

- (a) How does Amitav Ghosh represent the concepts of 'freedom' and 'identity' in *The Shadow Lines*?
- (b) Comment on Dibyendu Palit's reference to 'House' as a metaphor in "Alam's Own House".
- (c) Bring out the significance of the title of Manik Bandyopadhyay's story "The Final Solution".
- (d) Analyze "Toba Tek Singh" as an example of Partition Literature.
- (e) Critically appreciate Jibanananda Das's "I Shall Return to This Bengal".

2. Answer any *four* of the following questions :

5×4=20

- (a) Comment on the significance of maps in *The Shadow Lines*.
- (b) Briefly analyse the role of Tha'mma in *The Shadow Lines*.
- (c) Write a short note on the pervasive nostalgia in "Alam's Own House".
- (d) Comment on the role of Pramatha in "The Final Solution"?
- (e) How the outside world was presented as chaotic and insane in *Toba Tek Singh*?
- (f) "To this sad green shore of Bengal, drenched by the Jalangi's wave"—Explain.

3. Answer any *five* of the following questions :

2×5=10

- (a) Where and how did the old Jethamoshai die in *The Shadow Lines*?
 - (b) Which historical event sparked off the 1964 riots in *The Shadow Lines*?
 - (c) What is the historical background of Dibyendu Palit's narrative "Alam's Own House"?
 - (d) Where did Alam's father move during the Partition?
 - (e) Who is the heroine of the story "The Final Solution"? How did she intend to make both ends meet?
 - (f) Where was Bishan Singh admitted? Why did he refuse to go to India?
 - (g) Comment on the ending in *Toba Tek Singh*.
 - (h) Which form does the poet of "I Shall Return to This Bengal" want to take in his future reincarnation in Bengal?
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Or,
Paper - DSE 4-T
Travel Writing

1. Answer any *three* of the following questions : 10×3=30

- (a) Write an essay on Iban Batuta's representation of the court of Muhammad bin Tughlaq.
- (b) Critically analyze the narrative structure of Twain's *The Innocent Abroad*.
- (c) Why does Khuswant Singh refer to Delhi as an 'improbable' city? Justify.
- (d) How does Dalrymple negotiate with hegemonic structures through his book *City of Djinn*?
- (e) How has the leitmotif of journeying or *ghumakkadi* been used for cultural understanding in *From Volga to Ganga*?

2. Answer any *four* of the following questions : 5×4=20

- (a) How does Iban Batuta's travelogue enrich our understanding of Delhi Sultanate?
- (b) Analyze the attitude of Mark Twain towards Christianity as found in his book *The Innocent Abroad*.
- (c) Critically evaluate Dalrymple's description of the Viceroy's house/Rashtrapati Bhavan as found in *City of Djinn*.
- (d) Point out the attitudes of the refugees to the city of Delhi as reflected in Khushwant Singh's anthology.
- (e) How does Rahul Sankrityayan portray slavery in *From Volga to Ganga*?
- (f) Bring out the importance of the story of Nisha in *From Volga to Ganga*?

3. Answer any *five* of the following questions : 2×5=10

- (a) How does Iban Batuta portray the practice of penal torture as he found in Tughlaq's court?
- (b) How does Batuta describe the Iron Pillar at Mehrauli in his travelogue.
- (c) What does the author say about the "staunch old castle" of the Moors in *The Innocent Abroad*?

- (d) “Sir, I am a helpless orphan in a foreign land.” Explain with reference to the context.
- (e) How does Vyasa describe the Indraprastha in Khuswant Singh’s *City Improbable : Writings on Delhi*?
- (f) How does Dalrymple depict the plight of the Anglo-Indians in *City of Djinn*?
- (g) What, According to Rahul Sankrityayan, is “primitive communism”?
- (h) Which Buddhist philosophers are mentioned in Sankrityayan’s *From Volga to Ganga*?
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