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(Held in April-May, 2021)

ENGLISH

(Honours)

Paper : ENG-HC-1016

(Indian Classical Literature)

Full Marks : 80

Time : 3 hours

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

1. Answer the following in a word or in a sentence : 1×10=10

(a) Who is the father of Yudhisthir?

(b) Who accompanies Duryodhan to the Rajasuya Yagna?

(c) Which city is referred to as 'the City of Elephants'?

- (d) Who is the court-jester and companion of the king in the play, *Abhijnana Shakuntalam*?
- (e) Who is referred to as 'practiser of cruel penance' in Act VII of *Abhijnana Shakuntalam*?
- (f) Name the Tamil poet mentioned in the text of *The Book of Banci*.
- (g) Which kingdom is cursed by Kannaki?
- (h) Who is compared with Lord Indra?
- (i) Name the brother-in-law of King Palaka.
- (j) Who is Madanika in the play, *Mricchakatikam*?

2. Give very short answers :

2×5=10

- (a) According to ancient Tamil poetic theories, the subject matter of poetry is categorized under two heads. Name them.
- (b) What type of a stock character is Maitreya?

- (c) Why is the Act I of *Abhijnana Shakuntalam*, entitled 'The Chase'?
- (d) Who is Karna's foster father and who is his birth father?
- (e) Why does Samvahaka decide to become a Buddhist monk in *Mricchakatikam*?

3. Write short answers to any four of the following : 5×4=20

- (a) Comment on *Mricchakatikam* as a Prakarana.
- (b) Analyze the character of Sarvilaka.
- (c) Write briefly about the subplot in *Mricchakatikam*.
- (d) Critically evaluate King Cenkuttuvan as an ideal king.
- (e) Comment on the curse motif as an important thematic device in *Abhijnana Shakuntalam*.
- (f) What are the vows taken by Bhimsena in the first game of dice?

4. Write essay-type answers to any *four* of the following : 10×4=40

- (a) Comment on the title of the play, *Mricchakatikam* or *The Little Clay Cart*.
- (b) Comment critically on the question posed by Draupadi after the game of dice.
- (c) Critically analyze the character of Karna from your reading of the *Mahabharata*.
- (d) How does *Abhijnana Shakuntalam* examine the nature-culture conflict through the story of love and separation? Give a reasoned answer with adequate examples from the text.
- (e) How do the 'Rasas' of Indian classical tradition find representation in *Abhijnana Shakuntalam*? Elaborate and illustrate.
- (f) Critically analyze the concept of chastity and power in *The Book of Banci*.
- (g) Examine the role of gender in the valorization of King Cenkuttuvan and deification of Kannaki.
- (h) Examine critically the final scene of *Mricchakatikam*.

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