

U.G. 1st Semester Examination - 2021**ENGLISH****[HONOURS]****Course Code : ENGH-CC-T-1**

Full Marks : 60

Time : 2½ Hours

*The figures in the right-hand margin indicate marks.**Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.***Answer all the questions.****GROUP-A**1. Answer any **ten** of the following questions:

2×10=20

- a) “A choleric man, he did not suffer their mockery ...”– Who is this ‘choleric man’? Why is he subjected to mockery?
- b) How does Sakuni extol the prowess of the Pandavas?
- c) Who drags Draupadi to the Assembly Hall? Why does she refuse to go there?
- d) How many boons does Dhritarastra want to confer on Draupadi?

- e) How does Gandhari urge Dhritarastra not to go for another game of dicing?
- f) What is Sakuni’s proposal as stake in the second game of dicing?
- g) Who are the first to witness Kannaki’s ascent to heaven?
- h) “O lovely woman who looks like Valli”– Who is the ‘lovely woman’? Who is Valli?
- i) Why is Cenkuttuvan all set for punishing the Northern kings?
- j) Who is Matalan? Name the three kingdoms he travels.
- k) Trace the fate of the friends and relatives of Kannaki and Kovalam soon after their deaths.
- l) “All the world knows that he is meant to kill me ...”– Who speaks about his own death? What does he say about his potential killer?
- m) What happens to the Pantiyan king and queen?
- n) How do the defeated soldiers flee from the battlefield?
- o) ‘The Book of Vanci’ is not only a story of retributive justice but also about renunciation.— Substantiate your answer from the text.

[Turn over]

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

5×4=20

- a) How does Kannaki, a socially disempowered woman, subvert the accepted notion of patriarchy through her challenging demand for justice?
- b) Examine the features of *puram* poetry with reference to Canto 26 of 'The Book of Vanci'.
- c) Comment critically on the significance of the songs in Canto 29 of 'The Book of Vanci'.
- d) Describe how Dhritarastra gives in to Duryodhana's manipulation on his return from Indraprastha.
- e) "We shall have there a family dicing game" — Recount how the 'family dicing game' spells disaster for the Pandavas.
- f) Do you think that the disrobing of Draupadi serves as a metaphor for 'unprotected wife'? Give reasons in support of your answer.

GROUP-B

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

10×2=20

- a) How does Karna prove his invulnerability to Krsna's temptation?
- OR**
- b) Show how Gandhari tries to convince Duryodhana that Yudhisthira is the rightful heir to the throne. Comment on her concept of *dharma*.
 - c) In *Abhijnanasakuntalam* both kingship and the character of Duhsanta are subjected to critical scrutiny— Discuss.

OR

- d) Consider *Abhijnanasakuntalam* as a blend of romance and fairy tale.
- OR**
- e) Assess the role of Vidusaka in *Abhijnanasakuntalam* and *Mrichchhakatika*.

OR

- f) Comment on the trial scene in *Mrichchhakatika* which reflects the corrupt politics of the time.