



BRAINWARE UNIVERSITY

Library
Brainware University
398, Ramkrishnapur Road, Barasat
Kolkata, West Bengal-700125

Term End Examination 2024-2025
Programme – B.A.(Eng)-Hons-2024
Course Name – Ancient Indian Literature
Course Code - BEN10201
(Semester I)

Full Marks : 60

Time : 2:30 Hours

[The figure in the margin indicates full marks. Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.]

Group-A

(Multiple Choice Type Question)

1 x 15=15

1. Choose the correct alternative from the following :

- (i) State what is the nature of the self, according to Krishna.
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| a) It is born and dies with the body | b) It is eternal and indestructible |
| c) It is temporary and perishable | d) It is affected by pain and pleasure |
- (ii) Choose the correct answer. According to Krishna, how can one reach the state beyond action?
- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| a) By renouncing all actions | b) By performing sacrifice |
| c) By restraining the senses | d) One cannot reach the state beyond action by abstaining from actions |
- (iii) What does Krishna cite as an actions after reigning in the senses?
- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| a) Meditate deeply | b) Perform sacrifices |
| c) Strike down desire | d) Renounce all actions |
- (iv) Select the correct answer. Which of the following is believed to be the essence and the most important part of the Vedas?
- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| a) The Brahmanas | b) The Upanishads |
| c) The Upa- Vedas | d) The Vedangas |
- (v) Choose the correct answer: Statement 1: is primary authority. Statement 2: Smriti is a recollection of that experience. Statement 3: Sruti is revelation and Smriti is tradition. Statement 4: If there is anything in a Smriti which contradicts the Sruti, the Smriti is to be rejected.
- | | |
|---|---|
| a) Statement 1, 2 and 3 are correct, while 4 is incorrect | b) Only statement 1 and 2 are correct, while 3 and 4 are incorrect. |
| c) All the statements are incorrect. | d) All the statements are correct |
- (vi) Name the chapter of The Mahabharata which contains The Bhagavad Gita.
- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| a) The Viratparvan | b) The Bhismaparvan |
| c) The Dronaparvan | d) The Karnaparvan |
- (vii) Choose why Vasantsena fall in love with Charudatta.

- a) Because of his wealth and status. b) Because of his compassionate and noble nature.
- c) Because he rescues her from danger. d) Because she wants to escape her profession.
- (viii) Select the correct causes that leads to the downfall of Shakara in the play, Mrchchakatikam.
- a) His love for Vasantsena. b) His desire for power and arrogance.
- c) His alliance with Aryaka. d) His guilt over his actions.
- (ix) In Act X of Mrchchakatikam who recites the following lines, "Fate plays on, Exemplifying the maxim of the "Waterwheel and the pot.""
- a) Charudutta b) Vasantasena
- c) The Monk d) Aryaka
- (x) In Book II of Pancatantra, when Hiranyaka was cutting the bonds of the doves, Citragriva insisted that the mouse free his followers first. What principle of leadership is illustrated by Citragriva's request?
- a) A leader should always prioritize his own needs b) A leader should place the welfare of his followers above his own
- c) A leader should only help those who are most important d) A leader should delegate responsibility to others
- (xi) What can we infer about the Brahmin's personality based on their respective actions in both stories of Book V of Pancatantra?
- a) The Brahmins are always careful and avoids mistakes. b) They are impulsive and tends to act without considering the consequences.
- c) They are greedy and always looking for wealth. d) They trust animals and humans alike.
- (xii) Tell how is the concept of responsibility depicted differently in the two stories of Book V of Pancatantra.
- a) In the first story, the Brahmin neglects responsibility by dreaming of the future, whereas in the second story, he acts impulsively out of misplaced responsibility. b) In both stories, the Brahmin is portrayed as a responsible and rational individual.
- c) The Brahmin in both stories is shown to be entirely irresponsible and careless. d) Responsibility is not a theme in either of the stories.
- (xiii) Recall the name of the Tamil treatise according to which poetry is divided into Akam and Puram.
- a) Tholkappiyam b) Manimekalai
- c) Thirukkural d) Cilappatikaran
- (xiv) Select which amongst the following is not represented through Akam.
- a) interior b) exterior
- c) phases of love d) individual
- (xv) The five Akam thinai are also known as _____. Choose the correct answer.
- a) Karu b) Aintinai
- c) Neytal d) Palai

Group-B

(Short Answer Type Questions)

3 x 5=15

2. Write briefly on the absence of tragedy in Sanskrit drama of the ancient times. (3)
3. Critically examine the usage of Sanskrit as a spoken language in Ancient India. (3)

4. Why did the Brahmin kill the mongoose in Book V of *Pancatantra* and what did he discover afterward? (3)
5. "Wise men neither mourn whose life is gone, nor whose breath remains." Explain the above lines with reference to the Second Discourse of the *Gita*. (3)
6. "The actual objective of landscapes of Tamil country became the interior landscapes of Tamil poetry". Illustrate how the above resonates with respect to *Cilappatikaran*. (3)

OR

"Kannagi, the silent, chaste wife, cloistered within the Akam domain, now invades the public/ Puram domain and challenges the king and proves in the open court that her husband was not a thief." Explain the above lines with reference to *Cilappatikaran*. (3)

Group-C

(Long Answer Type Questions)

5 x 6=30

7. What role does the sub-plot involving the love-story of Sarvilaka and Madanika play in *Mrcchakatikam*? How will you establish its parallels with the main plot? (5)
8. Examine the conventions of *Akam* and *Puram* poetry with respect to Sangam literature. (5)
9. Explain the different strategies suggested by Meghavarna's ministers in response to the owl attack. Which strategy did Cirāmjīvin support, and why? Answer the above questions with reference to Book I of *Pancatantra*. (5)
10. Critically examine the usage of Prakrit as one the most used language of Ancient India. (5)
11. Explain the three paths of action or instruction that is suggested in The *Gita* for living our lives. (5)
12. Do you think The *Smritis* are enough for this age or do you think there needs to be a new code of rules for our present society? Justify your answer with suitable examples and evidence. (5)

OR

Evaluate the usage of Sanskrit both as a Vedic and Classical language. (5)

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