

U.G. 1st Semester Examination - 2023**ENGLISH****[HONOURS]****Course Code : ENGH-CC-T-1****[Old CBCS Syllabus]**

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) 'The Book of Vanci' is not only a story of retributive justice but also about renunciation.— Substantiate your answer from the text.
- b) How does Sakuni extol the prowess of the Pandavas?
- c) What happens to the Pantiyan king and queen?
- d) Why does the dicing event assume cardinal importance in *Mahabharata*?

[Turn over]

- e) Who swears to kill Shakuni?
- f) Who predicts the downfall of the Kauravas?
- g) Why does Vidura interrupt the Game of Dicing?
- h) Mention the two boons that Draupadi accepts from Dhritarastra.
- i) What are the stakes in sequel to dicing?
- j) "The king is befooled and crazed by the game"— Who says this and in what context?
- k) Why does Duryodhana threaten Shakuni with suicide and with what result?
- 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) Who drags Draupadi to the Assembly Hall? Why does she refuse to go there?
- n) How do the defeated soldiers flee from the battlefield?
- o) "A choleric man, he did not suffer their mockery ..."— Who is this 'choleric man'? Why is he subjected to mockery?

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

5×4=20

- a) Do you think that the disrobing of Draupadi serves as a metaphor for 'unprotected wife'? Give reasons in support of your answer.
- b) "We shall have there a family dicing game"— Recount how the 'family dicing game' spells disaster for the Pandavas.
- c) How is the theme of loss and death poignantly depicted in *The Book of Vanci*? Discuss with suitable textual illustrations.
- d) Discuss the significance of Draupadi's question at the Game of Dice.
- e) Examine the features of *puram* poetry with reference to Canto 26 of 'The Book of Vanci'.
- f) How does Kannaki, a socially disempowered woman, subvert the accepted notion of patriarchy through her challenging demand for justice?

GROUP-B

3. Answer any two of the following questions:

10×2=20

- a) Show how Gandhari tries to convince Duryodhana that Yudhisthira is the rightful heir to the throne. Comment on her concept of *dharma*.

OR

- b) How does Karna prove his invulnerability to Krsna's temptation?
- c) What is 'Prakarana'? Discuss with reference to *Mrichchhakatika*.
- d) Assess critically the narrative between Bhishma and Drona as found in *The Book of Effort*.
- e) Assess critically the historical context of Sudraka's *Mrichchhakatika*.
- f) Why is Kalidasa's play *Abhijnana Shakuntalam* termed as an irony play? Bring out in your own words the artistic usage of this device in the play.