**J. K. College, Purulia**

Department of English

Model Questions for Honours C B C S Course

**Semester I** :

Core Course I : **Ancient Indian Classical Literature**

**Module 1A (18 class hours)**

**Abhijnana-Shakuntalam** : Kalidasa

One mark short questions:

1. What does ‘Abhijnana’ mean?
2. Name another play by Kalidasa, apart from ‘Shakuntalam’.
3. Who present the prologue of ‘Abhijnana-Shakuntalam’?
4. Name the great German writer who goes eloquent over ‘Shakuntalam’.
5. Name the two bosom friends of Shakuntala in the Ashrama ?
6. Who are the foster parents of Shakuntala?
7. Who was Caturika?
8. Name the son of Shakuntala.
9. Name two policeman in the play.
10. Who was Madhavya?
11. Who was Harita?
12. By which mode does Dushynta marry Shakuntala?

Two marks shorter questions:

1. “I hear snatches of conversation to the south of this orchard” – Which orchard is referred to here? Who are in coversation?
2. “This impudent fellow will not leave me alone” – Who says this? Who is the ‘impudent fellow’?
3. “…she flashes on my eye….” – Who says this and about whom?
4. “Friend to Indra, the destroyer of powerful Vala?”- Who is the person spoken of? Who was Vala?
5. “My friend, it is a pretty plan, I like it” – Who is the speaker? What is the plan ?
6. “Shakuntala leaves us today” – Who says this? Where will Shakuntala go?
7. Who accompanied Shakuntala in her visit to the palace of Dushyanta?
8. “Childlessness is a misery, Vetravati” – Who is the speaker? Comment on the irony.

Five marks short- answer type questions:

1. Comment on the prologue to ‘Abhijnana-Shakuntalam’.
2. How does king Dushyanta ravage the forest surrounding the Ashrama of Kanva?
3. What is the significance of the ring in the complication of the plot?
4. What role does Durvasa play in the life of Shakuntala?
5. How is Shakuntala finally recognized?

Ten marks broad type questions:

1. Make an assessment of the title” “Abhijnana-Shakuntalam”.
2. Assess ‘Abhijnan-Shakuntalam” as an Indian comedy.
3. How does Kalidasa portray Shakuntala?
4. Make a note on the plot-construction of the play.

‘The Dicing’ and ‘The Sequel to Dicing’ from **The Mahabharata**: Vyas

**Module 1B (12 class hours)**

One mark short questions :

1. From which Parva of The Mahabharata are ‘The Dicing’ and ‘The Sequel to Dicing’ taken?
2. Why does Duryodhana threaten suicide to Sakuni?
3. Who suggests the game of dicing?
4. Who conveys the Pandavas the invitation to dicing?
5. Who drags Droupadi by the hair into the hall?
6. What does the howling of jackal imply?
7. What are the stakes in the sequel to dicing?
8. Who swears to kill Sakuni?
9. Who proposed that Kunti should stay at his place?
10. Who predicts the downfall of the Kauravas?

Two marks shorter questions :

1. What happened to Duryidhana when he visited Indraprastha?
2. How was Yudhisthira consecrated?
3. Mention the two boons that Draupadi accepts from Dhritarastra.
4. “The king is befooled and crazed by the game” – Who says this? Who is the king and what game is referred to here?
5. How did Vikarna react to the court insult of the Pandavas?
6. “There are three who own no property” – Who is the speaker? What are ‘three’?
7. What was the exact prediction of Narada?
8. What did Samajaya say to Dhritarastra?

Five marks questions :

1. Comment on the role played by Bidura in the game of dicing.
2. Enumerate the bids on behalf of Yudhisthira in the game of dicing.
3. Comment briefly on the rage of Bhima in the game of dicing.
4. How was the sequel to the game of dicing arranged?
5. What were the reactions of the elders after the Pandavas were forced to embrace Vanabasa for 12 years?

Ten marks questions :

1. Comment on the features of epic as you find in The Game of Dicing and the Sequel to the Game of Dicing.
2. Explain the concept of dharma as you find in The Game of Dicing and the Sequel to the Game of Dicing.
3. Comment on the condition of women as you find in The Game of Dicing and the Sequel to the Game of Dicing.

**The Mrichchhakatika** : Sudraka

**Module 1C**

One mark short questions :

1. What does ‘Mrichchhakatika’ mean?
2. How many acts are there in the play?
3. Who was Charudatta?
4. Name two persons always associated with Charudatta.
5. Name the wife of Charudatta.
6. Who was the son of Charudatta?
7. Name two attendants of Vasantasena.
8. Who was Sakara?
9. Name the two officers of the city police in Ujjayini.
10. Name two gamblers in the play.
11. What are the names of the Chandals?
12. Who was Samvahaka?

Two marks shorter questions :

1. What is a ‘Prakarana’ play?
2. What is ‘Abhirupa-Pati’? Who observed it?
3. Why does Charudatta obseve that poverty in case of man is ‘the abode of anxiety’?
4. How does Sakara describe Vasantasena in Act I?
5. “Oh, gambling is, indeed, to a man, a kingdom without a throne!” – Who is the speaker? How does he sustantiate his view?
6. “Oh! His excitement is quite out of place” – Who says this and about whom?
7. “He resembles his father in his beauty” – About whom does vasantasena say this? Who is the father?
8. “Kill me and let my father go” – Who says this and why?

Five marks short-answer type questions ;

1. Discuss two features of prakarana play as you find in ‘Mrichchhakatika’?
2. Comment on the realistic presentation of Ujjayini in the play.
3. What role does Sakara play in ‘Mrichchhakatika’?
4. Comment on the court room scene in Act IX.
5. Make a note on the role played by Maitreya.
6. Comment on the role of Rohsena in ‘Mrichchhakatika’.

Ten marks broad questions :

1. Make a note on ‘Mrichchhakatika’ as a prakarana play.
2. Do you consider Charudatta to be the hero of the play ‘Mrichchhakatika’?
3. Assess ‘Mrichchhakatika’ as a comedy.
4. Make a note on the plot construction of ‘Mrichchhakatika’.

**Cilappatikaram** : Ilanko Atikal

**Module 1D**

One mark questions :

1. What does ‘Cilappatikaram’ mean?
2. How many lines are there in the epic **Cilappatikaram**?
3. Name the three books of **Cilappatikaram.**
4. How many cantos are there in **Cilappatikaram**?
5. What does ‘akam’, ‘puranam’ and ‘puram’ mean?
6. Name the Cheral king in the Book of Vanci.
7. Name the sequel to the epic **Cilppatikaram**.
8. Name two rivers mentioned in the Book of Vanci.
9. Name two mountains mentioned in the Book of Vanci.
10. Who was Murugan?
11. What is Vallai song?
12. Who was the consort of god Murugan?

Two marks questions :

1. Who was Cenkuttuvan? Who was his wife?
2. Who were Cattan and Villavan Kotai?
3. Name the two Aryan kings who spoke ill of Tamil kings.
4. Who were Matabi and Matalan?
5. What happened to Matabi at the end?
6. “O brahman Matalan, please accept this” – Who said this? What did he offer?
7. “Return to your fertile land” – Who gave this instruction and to whom?
8. “Worship the goddess every day with offerings and festvities” – Who says this and to whom? Who is the goddess?

Five marks questions :

1. Comment on Cenguttuvan as the king.
2. What account of Kannaki is given to king Cenkuttuvan?
3. Make a short note on Cenkuttuvan’s victory over the Aryan kings.
4. What role does Matalan play in the Book of Vanci.
5. What is Atikal’s view of a true king?

Ten marks questions :

1. What picture of South India do you form after your reading of the Book of Vanci.
2. Do you consider Cenkuttuvan as the hero of the Book of Vanci?
3. How does Cenkuttuvan install the image of goddess Pattni in his kingdom.

Core Course II : **Ancient Eoropean Classical Literature**

**Module 2A**

The Iliad : Homer

One mark questions :

1. How long did Trojan war continue?
2. Who was the household god of Troy?
3. How long did the plague sent by Apollo continue?
4. Who was Calchas?
5. Who were the Myrmidons?
6. Name the mother of Achilles .
7. Who was Hephaestus?
8. Who was Agamemnon?
9. Who were the ambasssadors sent to bring Achilles back?
10. Who was the general of the Trojan army?
11. Who was Patroclus?
12. Name the prize women of Agamemnon and Achilles?

Two marks questions :

1. Why did Apollo send a plague to the Greek camp?
2. Why was Agamemnon furious over Calchas?
3. What ensued the conflict between Agamemnon and Achilles?
4. Why did Thetis persuade Zeus to favour the Trojans?
5. Name two Olympian deities in favour of Greek army and two in favour of Trojan army.
6. Name the daughters of Agamemnon.
7. Name the king and queen of Troy.
8. How did Acilles reject the peace proposal of Agamemnon?

Five marks questions :

1. What role does Crises play in Book I of The Iliad?
2. Why did Achilles fall out with Agamemnon and leave the Greek camp?
3. How did Thetis prevail on Zeus to show his favour to the Trojans?
4. Who were the ambassadors of Agamemnon that met Achilles? How did Achilles receive them in his camp?
5. What were the offers Agamemnon made to persuade Achilles?
6. Why did Achilles refused the offers of Agamemnon?

Ten marks questions :

1. What view of life do you get in your reading of Book I and Book IX of The Iliad?
2. What impression of Achilles do you form in your reading of Book I and Book IX of The Iliad?
3. Make a note on the role played by Odessyus/ Nestor/ Agamemnon in The Iliad.
4. Comment on the epical features of The Iliad as you find in Book I and Book IX?

**Module B2**

**The Poetics : Aristotle**

One mark questions :

1. What does ‘Poetics’ mean?
2. Which play was the model for Poetics?
3. Name another work by Aristotle apart from Poetics.
4. What according to Aristotle is the most important aspect of a drama?
5. What does ‘Hamartia’ mean?
6. In which chaper of Poetics does Aristotle define tragedy?
7. What does ‘anagnorisis’ mean?
8. What is the meaning of ‘peripeti’?
9. What is ‘fable’?
10. What are the two emotions that tragedy should arose?
11. What does Aristotle mean by ‘pleasurable accessories’ in drama?
12. That according to Aristotle is more important in tragedy – plot or character?

Two mark questions :

1. What according to Aristotle are the six components of drama?
2. What is the view of Aristotle about plot?
3. On which grounds does Aristotle consider tragedy superior to epic?
4. What is the definition of tragedy given by Aristotle in Poetics?
5. How does Aristotle define a tragic hero?
6. What is Aristotle’s views about comedy?
7. What does Aristotle mean by necessity and probability?
8. What is the view of Aristotle about character in a drama?

Five marks questions :

1. Why does Aristotle emphasize so much on plot?
2. How does Aristotle defend poetry against philosophy and history?
3. What according to Aristotle is the concept of a tragic hero?
4. What is Aristotle’s views about catharsis?
5. Do you consider Aristotle as a formalist?

Ten marks questions :

1. Make a note on Aristotle’s concept of tragic hero.
2. Make an assessment of Aristotle’s views about catharsis.
3. Make a note on Aristotle as an analytical critic.
4. How does Aristotle refute Plato’s charges against poetry In his Poetics?