

(6 pages)

NOVEMBER 2023

71253/AG25B

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 75 marks

PART A — (10 marks)

I. Annotate any FIVE of the following.

(5 × 2 = 10)

1. Some months were gone; the lonely lover's pain
Had loosed his golden bracelet day by day
Ere he beheld the harbinger of rain,
A cloud that charged the peak in mimic fray,
As an elephant attacks a bank of earth in play.
2. Here sighs with lamentations and loud moans
Resounded through the air pierc'd by no star,
That e'en I wept at entering.
3. Sir! grant me now to know
Whom here we view, and whence impell'd they
seem
So eager to pass o'er, as I discern
Through the blear light?

4. When the Regime
commanded the unlawful books to be burned,
teams of dull oxen hauled huge cartloads to the
bonfires.
5. He rushed to his desk, full of contemptuous wrath,
to write fierce letters to the morons in power
Burn me! he wrote with his blazing pen
Haven't I always reported the truth?
6. A single glance: a sudden dart of pain
stitching her eyes before she made a sound
Her body flaked into transparent salt,
and her swift legs rooted to the ground.
7. Yet in my heart I never will deny her,
who suffered death because she chose to turn.
8. The caged bird wants the old trees and air.
Fish in their pool miss the ancient stream.
I plough the earth at the edge of South Moor.
Keeping life simple, return to my plot and garden.
My place is hardly more than a few fields.

IN BA English → World Classics in Translation²

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PART B — (35 marks)

- II. Answer any THREE of the following passages and answer the questions given below.

(3 × 5 = 15)

9. The several types of Greek lyric poetry originated in the Archaic period among the poets of the Aegean Islands and of Ionia on the coast of Asia Minor. Archilochus of Paros, of the seventh century BC, was the earliest Greek poet to employ the forms of elegy and of personal lyric poetry.
- (a) What is Archaic period?
(b) Who was Archilochus?
(c) Explain the passage.
10. His most famous work, part of a trilogy, is *Oedipus Rex* or *Oedipus the King*, a play written 16 years after first of the three, *Antigone*, a play about Oedipus' daughter.
- (a) Whose works are mentioned in this passage?
(b) What was the myth about Oedipus?
(c) Explain the last line of the passage.

11. His plays include *Knights*, *Lysistrata*, *Thesmophoriazusa*, *The Frogs*, and *The Clouds*, a play that ridiculed the philosopher Socrates as a corrupt teacher of rhetoric. His actors often wore grotesque masks and told obscene jokes. Many of his plays had a moral or social lesson, poking fun at the literary and social life of Athens.

- (a) Who is the writer referred to here?
(b) Who was Socrates?
(c) Explain the passage.

12. But the ancient Tamils were a community, a 'Cankam' of poets, with a symbolism and a reality they shared. Not a fabulous mythology but the realities of nature and culture used as a symbolism, a language within a language which allowed them to write with tremendous economy and allusiveness.

- (a) What were the common characteristics of the Tamil Cankam poets?
(b) What is 'Cankam'?
(c) Explain the passage.

13. The six sections of the Guide to Murukan celebrate six holy places, which are identified with His six faces, thus making Tamil country the body of the god. In this poetic act, the poem, the god, and the country become homologues of one another. This long poem is the first great bhakti poem in Indian literature.

- (a) What is the poem referred to in this passage?
- (b) Who is Murukan?
- (c) Explain the passage.

III. Answer any FOUR of the following questions.

(4 × 5 = 20)

- 14. Consider humans as prisoners of fate in *Oedipus Rex*.
- 15. How is the prophecy of the oracle proved regarding the death of Laius?
- 16. Write on the significance of the drum in Leo Tolstoy's "The Empty Drum".
- 17. What are the themes in "The Blizzard".
- 18. Describe how *The Count of Monte Cristo* reflects the nineteenth century Romantics' obsession with the exotic.
- 19. Comment on the relationship between Monte Cristo and Haydee.

PART C — (30 marks)

IV. Write essays on any THREE of the following in about 300 words. (3 × 10 = 30)

- 20. Critically analyse "On Ancient Tamil Poetics".
- 21. Explore the theme of Kalidasa's *Meghaduta* or *Cloud Messenger*.
- 22. Consider *Oedipus Rex* as a tragedy.
- 23. Examine Guy de Maupassant as a short story writer with reference to the prescribed text.
- 24. Analyse the character of Mercedes in *The Count of Monte Cristo*.