

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 75 marks

SECTION A — (10 marks)

I. Annotate FIVE of the following: (5 × 2 = 10)

1. I ask you, shelter from the sun's fierce glare, as one apart, beneath Kubera's sanctions, to bear this message to a loved one waiting in Alaká, where Shiva on those mansions sheds garden's moonlight from his forehead there.
2. Here sighs with lamentations and loud moans Resounded through the air pierc'd by no star, That e'en I wept at entering. Various tongues, Horrible languages, outcries of woe,
3. When the Regime commanded the unlawful books to be burned, teams of dull oxen hauled huge cartloads to the bonfires.

4. He rushed to his desk, full of contemptuous wrath, to write fierce letters to the morons in power
Burn me!

5. at the red towers of your native Sodom, the square where once you sang, the spinning-shed, at the empty windows set in the tall house where sons and daughters blessed your marriage-bed."

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. The caged bird wants the old trees and air.
Fish in their pool miss the ancient stream.

8. My house has eight or nine small rooms.
Elm-trees and Willows shade the back.
Plum-trees and Peach-trees reach the door.

2

71253/AG25B

SECTION B — (35 marks)

II. Analyse any THREE of the following passages and answer the questions given below. (3 × 5 = 15)

9. The roots of Greek literature can be traced back to the oral tradition of ancient Greece, where bards and poets recited epic tales such as Homer's "Iliad" and "Odyssey." These foundational works not only entertained audiences but also served as repositories of cultural memory, transmitting values, beliefs, and historical narratives from one generation to the next.

- (a) Where do we find the roots of Greek literature? (1)
- (b) What is the meaning of the word, 'transmitting'? (1)
- (c) Explain the passage. (3)

10. The classical period of Greek literature, roughly spanning from the 5th to the 4th century BCE, witnessed a flourishing of literary creativity unparalleled in history. It was during this time that the great playwrights Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides graced the stage with their masterpieces of tragedy, exploring themes of fate, morality, and the nature of the divine.

- (a) What was the contribution of the great playwrights? (1)
- (b) What is the meaning of the word, fate? (1)
- (c) Explain the passage. (3)

11. The kurinci flower and the mountain scene clearly mark this as a kurinci poem about lovers union. The union is not described or talked about: it is enacted by the inset scene of the bees making honey from the flowers of the kurinci, The lover is not only lord of the mountain. He is like the mountain he own. Describing the scene describes his passion. The kurinci, being a plant that takes about twelve years to come to flower, carries a suggestion assimilating the tree to the young tropical heroine who speaks the poem.

- (a) How is the lovers' union described here? (1)
- (b) What is the meaning of the word, tropical? (1)
- (c) Explain the passage. (3)

12. The puram poems correspond to the akaam poems in many ways. The Tolkappiyam finds a puram parallel for every one of the seven genres of akam. Six of them are named after a flower or a plant. For instance, vakai, the sirisa tree of the desert region, lends its name to the puram genre depicting ideals of achievement-parallel to its palai in lover poetry, which depicts a lover going through the wilderness in search of wealth, fame, etc.

- (a) Why vakai is mentioned here? (1)
- (b) What is the meaning of the word, 'parallel'? (1)
- (c) Explain the passage. (3)

13. The lyric poet likes to find ways of saying many things while saying one thing; he would like to suggest an entire astronomy by his specks and flashes. Toward this end, the Tamil poets used a set of five landscapes and formalized the world into symbolism. By a remarkable consensus, they all spoke this common language of symbols for some five or six generations. Each could make his own poem and by doing so allude to every other poem which had been, was being, or would be written in this symbolic language. Thus poem became relevant to poem, as if they were all written by a single hand.

- (a) How many landscapes are mentioned here? (1)
- (b) What is the meaning of the word, 'consensus'? (1)
- (c) Explain the passage. (3)

III. Answer any FOUR of the following questions

(4 × 5 = 20)

- 14. Explore the theme of knowledge and ignorance in Oedipus Rex.
- 15. Why does Oedipus blind himself in Oedipus Rex?
- 16. Explore the theme of human resilience as portrayed in the protagonist's struggle to survive the blizzard.

- 17. Compare and contrast the attitudes of Vladimir and the old man in 'Blizzard'.
- 18. In what ways does Dostoevsky explore themes of tradition and family through the imagery of the Christmas tree?
- 19. What role does the wedding ceremony play in the narrative structure of Dostoevsky's 'A Christmas Tree and a Wedding'?

SECTION C — (3 × 10 = 30 marks)

- IV. Write essays on any THREE of the following in 300 words.
- 20. Discuss the key principles and concepts of ancient Tamil poetics as outlined by A.K. Ramanujan.
 - 21. Analyze the themes of love, duty, and destiny in Kalidasa's 'Mega Duta'.
 - 22. Attempt an essay on the role of prophecy and oracles in 'Oedipus Rex'.
 - 23. Explore the theme of alienation and belonging in Tolstoy's 'The Convert'.
 - 24. Examine the motif of imprisonment and freedom in Alexander's 'The Count of Monte Cristo'.