

**2023-24**

**Time - 3 hours**

**Full Marks - 80**

*Answer both groups as per instructions.  
Figures in the right hand margin indicate marks.  
Candidates are required to answer  
in their own words as far as practicable.*

**GROUP – A**

1. Answer any four questions. [14 × 4
- (a) Write a short note on the origin and evaluation of ancient Greek drama.
- (b) Discuss the major phases in the development of Indian classical literature, highlighting the key genres and authors of each phase.
- (c) Discuss the feminist perspective of *Abhijnanasakuntalam*. How does the play portray the female characters, particularly Shakuntala ?
- (d) Discuss the themes of love, loss and redemption in *Abhijnanasakuntalam*. How does Kalidasa explore these themes through the characters and plot of the play ?

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- (e) Compare and contrast the characters of Charudatta and Rakshasa in Act One of *Mrichchhakatika*. How does Sudraka use these characters to explore the themes of good and evil, poverty and wealth, and love and lust ?
- (f) Discuss the different types of *rasa* and their effects on the audience, as described in Bharata's *Natyasastra*, 'Chapter-VI'.
- (g) Bharata's *Natyasastra*, 'Chapter-VI', is a timeless classic that has had a profound influence on Indian theatre and culture. Discuss the relevance of this chapter in the 21st century and explain how its insights can be used to create innovative and meaningful theatrical performances.

**GROUP – B**

2. Answer any four questions. [6 × 4

- (a) What are the major contributions of Kalidasa to Indian classical drama ?
- (b) Discuss the significance of the opening scene of the play, *Mrichchhakatika*. How does it introduce the main characters and themes ?
- (c) What do you understand by benediction / invocation ? Write a short note on the benediction / invocation in *Mrichchhakatika*.

[ 3 ]

- (d) Analyse the significance of the title, *Abhijnanasakuntalam*. Discuss how the theme of recognition is central to the plot and character development of the play.
- (e) Critically examine the role of the characters Aryaka and Sthavaraka in the play, *Mrichchhakatika*.
- (f) Discuss the significance of the ring in *Abhijnanasakuntalam*. How does it serve as a symbol of love, loss and recognition ?
- (g) Examine some of the dimensions of social life as highlighted in *Mrichchhakatika*.