

B. A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2015
BRANCH XII – ENGLISH
SIXTH SEMESTER

COURSE : MAJOR – CORE
PAPER : WORLD CLASSICS
TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS: 100

SECTION A

I. Critically analyze any one of the following passages using the questions given to structure your answer. (1x20=20)

- A. Nine days the arrows of god swept through the army.
On the tenth Achilles called all ranks to muster—
the impulse seized him, sent by white-armed Hera
grieving to see Achaean fighters drop and die.
Once they'd gathered, crowding the meeting grounds,
the swift runner Achilles rose and spoke among them:
"Son of Atreus, now we are beaten back, I fear,
the long campaign is lost. So home we sail . . .
if we can escape our death—if war and plague
are joining forces now to crush the Argives.
But wait: let us question a holy man,
a prophet, even a man skilled with dreams—
dreams as well can come our way from Zeus—
come, someone to tell us why Apollo rages so,
whether he blames us for a vow we failed, or sacrifice.
If only the god would share the smoky savor of lambs
and full-grown goats, Apollo might be willing, still,
somehow, to save us from this plague."
i) Fix the context.
ii) Mention the significance of “the long campaign”.
iii) Explain the reason for Apollo’s rage.
iv) What is referred to by “this plague”?
v) What is Achilles’s and Agamemnon’s role in the crisis mentioned in the passage?

OR

- B. Like the unhappy women who keep painful vows
After their dear husbands vanished in the pyre,
Must I suffer and be ruined
Because I lost my husband through the fault
Of a king despised by his own people?
Like the unhappy women who lost their husbands
With chests resplendent with fragrant wreaths,
And went and bathed in holy rivers,
Must I suffer and be ruined,

O foolish goddess of dharma, through the fault
 Of the king whose sceptre is bent by evil?
 Like the unhappy women drowned in the vows
 Of widowhood after their husbands vanished
 In the pyre, must I give up in this life,
 Cry my heart out and be ruined
 Through the fault of the Pāntiyan
 Whose sceptre turned away from dharma?
 Look at me all you good herds women
 Who have come and gathered here, and performed
 the round dance with foreboding, listen to me!
 All you good herds women who have come
 And gather here, won't you listen to me?
 O lord of the flaming rays! You that see all
 That happens in this world clasped by the swirling waves
 Tell me, is my husband a thief?

- i) Identify the speaker.
- ii) Who does the speaker address?
- iii) How did the speaker's husband die?
- iv) Briefly mention the incidents that led to the speaker's present grief.
- v) Comment on the attitude of the speaker.

II. Answer any four of the following in 250 -300 words each.

(4x10=40)

- a) "Think how it is to have a conversation with an embryo.
 You might say, "The world outside is vast and intricate.
 There are wheatfields and mountain passes,
 and orchards in bloom."
 Analyse the meaning and significance of these lines. (from Rumi's "Wean Yourself")
- b) Attempt a critical reading of Rumi's "The Worm's Walking".
- c) How does Elango Adikal present the virtues of Kannagi in *Cilappatikaram*.
- d) Write a brief note on the possible source of 3rd day IX story in *The Decameron*.
- e) Discuss the role of music and singing in Noh plays, with focus on *Hagoromo*.
- f) Briefly examine the relevance of Book 1 of *The Iliad*.
- g) Bring out the reasons for Achilles's quarrel with Agamemnon.

III. Answer any two of the following in 750 words.

(2x20=40)

- a) Discuss the value systems presented in the sections prescribed for study from *Cilappatikaram*.
- b) Discuss the features of Noh theatre.
- c) Examine the central features of Sufi poetry with focus on the works prescribed for you.
- d) Are women generally held in a lower social standing than men, in Giovanni Boccaccio's *The Decameron* ? Discuss.