

B. A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2016  
BRANCH XII – ENGLISH  
SIXTH SEMESTER

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

MAX. MARKS: 100

SECTION A

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

A. So she urged  
and the swift runner complied at once: "I must -  
when the two of you hand down commands, Goddess,  
a man submits though his heart breaks with fury.  
Better for him by far. If a man obeys the gods  
they're quick to hear prayers."

And with that  
Achilles stayed his burly hand on the silver hilt  
And slid the huge blade back in its sheath.  
He would not fight the orders of Athena.  
Soaring home to Olympus, she rejoined the gods  
aloft in the halls of Zeus whose shield is thunder.

1. Who is the swift runner?
2. Fix the context.
3. Why did he sheath the sword?
4. Who sent Athena?
5. Why does he obey the gods?

OR

B. Virtuous women who live in this city  
Ruled by an unjust king! Listen to this!  
I have suffered a blow past cure,  
When my troubles were about to end, unlike anything else  
I had suffered before. Will I recover from it?  
Listen to this. My husband isn't a thief.  
Reluctant to pay the price of my anklet,  
They killed him. Listen to this! Will I ever see  
My dear husband in your presence, O virtuous women?  
Listen to this. If ever I see my dear husband,  
I shall hear from only his lips the real truth.  
If I don't hear the real truth, condemn me,  
Saying, 'She alone brought on him' listen to this!

1. Who is the unjust king?
2. What are the troubles that Kannaki is referring to?
3. Why is Kannaki angry and sad?
4. Comment on the laws of Pukar.
5. Discuss on the phrase “O virtuous Women?” Is it relevant for today’s context with the contemporary value system?

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

**(4x10=40)**

- a. “ And so when I start speaking a powerful right arm  
Of words sweeping down, I know him from what I say,  
And how I say it, because there’s a window open  
Between us, mixing the night air of our beings”  
How would you interpret these lines of Rumi?
- b. Why is *Hagoromo* so popular?
- c. What is the role of disguise or concealed identity in the tales of *Decameron*? Why do characters hide their identities?
- d. Who drives Agamemnon and Achilles to their quarrel? What does this say about human responsibility?
- e. What is the role of women in *The Illiad*? Does the poem contain any strong female character or do the acts and deeds of males dominate the work?
- f. How does Kannaki avenge her husband’s death?
- g. Write on the philosophy conveyed through the poem *In Baghdad Dreaming of Cairo, In Cairo Dreaming of Baghdad*.

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

**(2x20=40)**

- a) Comment on Rumi’s poetry which reflects his connection with Sufism.
- b) Why does Boccaccio write *Decameron* for women? What are the limitations imposed on women in his society?
- c) In what ways do you think the men’s and god’s quarrels are like/unlike? Why do you think these quarrels have different outcomes?
- d) How does Adigal celebrate the power of female characters?

\*\*\*\*\*