

B. A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2017
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. What god drove them to fight with such a fury?
Apollo the son of Zeus and Leto. Incensed at the king
he swept a fatal plague through the army—men were dying
and all because Agamemnon spurned Apollo's priest.
Yes, Chryses approached the Achaeans' fast ships
to win his daughter back, bringing a priceless ransom
and bearing high in hand, wound on a golden staff,
the wreaths of the god, the distant deadly Archer.
He begged the whole Achaean army but most of all
the two supreme commanders, Atreus' two sons,
"Agamemnon, Menelaus—all Argives geared for war!
May the gods who hold the halls of Olympus give you
Priam's city to plunder, then safe passage home.
Just set my daughter free, my dear one . . . here,
accept these gifts, this ransom. Honor the god
who strikes from worlds away—the son of Zeus, Apollo!"

1. Who is Chryses?
2. Why does he wish that the gods would give Agamemnon and Menelaus 'Priam's city to plunder'?
3. Who does the word 'them' refer to in the first line?
4. What was the reason for their fury?
5. What role does Apollo play in this war?

OR

B. He fell down in a swoon. His great queen
Shuddered in confusion and said: 'There is no refuge
For a woman who has lost her husband.'
That woman of soft words touched her husband's feet and died.

1. Who is this queen?
2. Why did her husband fall 'in a swoon'?
3. What is the background to this incident?
4. What does this reveal about the place of women in society?
5. Comment on the patriarchal mindset seen in the text.

II. Answer any four of the following in about 300 words each.**(4x10=40)**

- a. I will search for the Friend with all my passion
and all my energy, until I learn
that I don't need to search.
Examine the thematic significance of these lines in Rumi's poem.
- b. Discuss the dramatic conventions seen in Hagaromo.
- c. Discuss the ways in which the Countesse of Roussillion defies patriarchal conventions
in her attempt to win her husband back.
- d. Comment on the relevance of the message conveyed in 'The Worm's Waking'.
- e. Analyse the political climate and the idea of justice as seen in *Cilappatikaram*.
- f. Discuss the role of the goddesses in the *The Iliad*.
- g. What were the repercussions of Agamemnon's stubborn stand ?

III. Answer any two of the following in 750 words.**(2x20=40)**

- a. Based on the prescribed extract from *Cilappatikaram*, discuss your impression of the
value system of the period.
- b. Discuss Rumi's spiritual outlook based on the poems prescribed for study.
- c. What is your perception of the socio-cultural background against which *Decameron* is
set? Substantiate your answers using the prescribed texts.
- d. Discuss the epic conventions seen in Book I of *The Iliad*.
