

[This question paper contains 4 printed pages.]

Your Roll No.....

Sr. No. of Question Paper : 5522 G

Unique Paper Code : 12037515

Name of the Paper : Pre-Colonial Indian Literatures

Name of the Course : BA (Hons) English – DSE

Semester : V

Duration : 3 Hours

Maximum Marks : 75

Instructions for Candidates

1. Write your Roll No. on the top immediately on receipt of this question paper.
2. This question paper contains 2 parts. Both parts are compulsory.
3. Candidates have to answer ANY THREE questions in Part A and ANY THREE in Part B.
4. Questions in Part A carry 10 marks each and questions in Part B carry 15 marks each.

PART A

ANSWER ANY THREE QUESTIONS. (3×10=30)

1. Critically comment on the following lines with reference to the context :

I was so weary of the ways of this world (10)
That I spumed all advice given by my friends.
I made my own mind the sole judge of truth
Rejecting the popular view of life.

2. Critically comment on the poetic alternation between Madhumalati's physical beauty and her spiritual splendour. (10)

3. Discuss the significance of the 'Kathapitha' within the *Kathasaritasagara*. (10)

4. Identify, contextualise and comment on the following lines : (10)

It was for this reason that the
All-merciful addressed some
reproachful words to Her... Sita
however, bowed to the lord's
command: pure as she was in thought,
word and deed.

5. Analyse the multiple notions of love that are represented in pre-colonial Indian literature. (10)

PART B

ANSWER ANY THREE QUESTIONS. (3×15=45)

6. Elaborate the major features of Bhakti poetry? What is Saguna and Nirguna? Explain with reference to the poems in your syllabus. (15)
7. Jayadeva presents two Krishnas in the *Gitagovinda* - one divine, the object of devotion, and the other human, affected by erotic desire. Discuss. (15)
8. The storytelling traditions of India utilise the presence of various deities and supernatural creatures as a structural element to aid the protagonist(s) and/or to take the narrative forward. Do you agree? Give a well-reasoned answer with the help of two prescribed texts. (15)

9. Explain how 'Tulsidas' treatment of the events of the *Ramayana* creates a space for the experience of *bhakti* within the *Ramacharltamanasa*. (15)
10. Using examples, explain how pre-colonial Indian literature combined mundane concerns with spiritual subjects. (15)