

Ex/CL/UG/1.1/5/2017

BACHELOR OF ARTS EXAMINATION, 2017

(1st Year, 1st Semester)

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

Course - CL/UG/1.1

(Literatures of the Ancient World I)

Full Marks : 30

Time : Two Hours

All questions carry equal marks.

Answer all questions either in English or in Bangla
but all *three* in the same language.

1. (a) Is the *Devīsūkta* a precursor to later Upanisadic thought ? Discuss with suitable textual examples.

Or,

- (b) Critically comment on the nature of *varnāshrama-dharma* as enumerated in the *Bhāgvat Gītā* and the *Bhāgvat Purāṇa*. How does the *Dhammapada* contribute to this debate on *swadharmā* and the ultimate goal of life ?

[*Turn over*]

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2. (a) The *Valmiki Rāmāyaṇa* foregrounds human aspirations in constant dialogue with divine machinations. Do you agree ? Discuss with suitable textual examples.

Or;

- (b) Would you agree that the Itihāsa-Purāṇa acted as the 'inherited text' for the later Puranas ? Discuss with reference to the *Mahābhārata* and the *Srimād Bhāgvat Mahāpurāṇa*.

3. (a) Comment critically on the role of nature and landscape in the *Dhammapada* and the Sangam poetry with close reference to the texts.

Or;

- (b) Through its preoccupation with the basic human desire for love and personal glory, Sangam poetry highlights certain social and moral codes of conduct that are emblematic of the ethical worldview of the ancient Tamil-speaking community. Discuss with close reference to the text.