

BACHELOR OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2023

(1st Year, 1st Semester)

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

Course – CBCS/CL/UG/CORE/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

1a. Compare the thematic and formal features of the hymns of first and tenth mandala of the *Rgveda*. Discuss with reference to the hymns you read.

Or,

1b. Can you locate any thematic change in the mantras of the *Īsopaniṣad* from the sūktas of first mandala of the *Rgveda*? Discuss with suitable references.

2a. How crucial is the act of storytelling in ancient India? Comment critically with reference to any two texts studied in this course.

Or,

2b. Explain how, by problematising the category of religious texts, the study of *Viṣṇupurāṇa* and *Dhammapada* may be relevant in the absence of a written history of ancient India.

3a. Do you think that while the implications of human and non-human worlds are manifold in Akam and Puram poems, different poetic sensibilities could be traced in the use of subjective and objective utterances in them respectively? Substantiate your answer with close textual references.

Or,

3b. Do you think that Sangam poetry puts more emphasis on natural settings rather than human beings to intensify its emotional effects? If yes, then is it similar for both the Akam and Puram poems? Comment critically with close textual analysis.