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5 SEM FYUGP ENGC5B

2025

(November)

ENGLISH

(Core)

Paper : ENGC5B

(European Classical Literature)

Full Marks : 60

Time : 2 hours

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks
for the questions*

UNIT—I

1. Answer any *two* of the following : $5 \times 2 = 10$

- (a) What is the significance of the Epic in classical literature? Mention any two important epics and their cultural importance.

- (b) Differentiate between comedy and tragedy in classical Greek drama. Provide suitable examples.
- (c) Briefly describe the role of The Athenian City-State in shaping classical drama and literature.
- (d) Define Catharsis and Mimesis. How do they function in classical tragedy?
- (e) What are the key characteristics of satire in classical literature? Mention any one classical satirist.
- (f) Write a short note on literary cultures in Augustan Rome. How did patronage influence literature during this period?

UNIT—II

2. Answer any *one* the following :

10

- (a) Describe the character of Achilles as portrayed in *The Iliad*. What makes him a classical hero?

(b) Discuss the role of the gods in *The Iliad*. How do divine interventions shape the course of events?

(c) Examine how *The Iliad* reflects the values and culture of ancient Greek warrior society.

(d) Analyse the theme of wrath (menis) in *The Iliad* and its significance in the epic's narrative structure.

3. Answer any *one* of the following:

5

(a) Write a brief note on Hector as a family man and warrior.

(b) Explain the role of fate (moira) in the lives of Homeric heroes.

(c) What is the significance of Patroclus' death in the development of the plot?

(d) Briefly discuss Homer's narrative style in *The Iliad*.

UNIT—III

4. Answer any one of the following :

10

- (a) In *Antigone*, how does Sophocles present the tension between personal duty and political authority? Discuss with reference to the major characters and their choices.
- (b) Explore the ways in which *Antigone* reflects the moral and spiritual dilemmas of its time. How do these dilemmas contribute to the play's tragic depth?
- (c) How might the Chorus in *Antigone* be understood as both a commentator and a participant in the unfolding events? Reflect on its shifting stance throughout the play.
- (d) Examine the interplay of fate and free will in *Antigone*. To what extent do the characters shape their own destinies?

5. Answer any *one* of the following :

5

- (a) Why does Antigone insist on burying Polyneices despite the king's decree?
- (b) How does Creon react to Tiresias' prophecy and what changes does it bring about in his decisions?
- (c) Explain the role of Ismene in the play. How does her response to Antigone's plan contrast with her sister's?
- (d) Briefly describe how the theme of pride (hubris) contributes to Creon's downfall.

UNIT—IV

6. Answer any *one* of the following :

10

- (a) Discuss how *Pot of Gold* explore the theme of greed through the character of Euclio. How does his obsession with money shape the plot and humour of the play?
- (b) In what ways does *Pot of Gold* reflect typical features of Roman comedy? Consider stock characters, mistaken identity, and social satire in your answer.

- (c) Examine the role of family, marriage, and patriarchy in *Pot of Gold*. How does Plautus use these themes to comment on Roman society?
- (d) How does Plautus use irony and comic exaggeration in *Pot of Gold*? Discuss with reference to specific scenes or characters.

UNIT—V

7. Answer any *two* of the following in short :

5×2=10

- (a) How does Ovid's *Pyramus and Thisbe* explore the theme of tragic love? Comment briefly on its connection to later literary traditions.
- (b) What role does punishment play in Ovid's *Philomela*? How is poetic justice achieved in the story?
- (c) In the *Bacchus* episode, how are the consequences of impiety and disbelief portrayed? Briefly comment on the transformation of the sailors.

- (d) How does Horace blend humour and criticism in *Satires 1:4*? Give one example to support your answer.
- (e) Discuss how Horace reflects on poetic identity and literary originality in *Satires 1:4*. What is his view of imitation?
- (f) Briefly explain how Ovid uses the motif of transformation (metamorphosis) to reflect deeper emotional or moral changes in any one of the prescribed stories.
