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**ST. JOSEPH’S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), BANGALORE- 27**

**B.A/B.SC/BCOM ADDITIONAL ENGLISH – II SEMESTER**

**SEMESTER EXAMINATION- APRIL 2019**

**AE-214 Additional English**

**Time: 2 I/2 Hours Max. Marks- 70**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. You are allowed to use a dictionary during the examination.

2. This paper contains **TWO** printed pages.

3. You will lose marks for exceeding word limits.

1. **ANSWER ANY FOUR OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN NOT MORE THAN 200 WORDS EACH.**  **4X10=40**
2. From your reading of Charles Dickens, which extract would you consider as a repository of social conscience of Victorian England? Justify your answer.
3. Why do you think Charles Dickens has named his book after a minor character in Barnaby Rudge? Explain from your understanding of the text.
4. Uriah Heep constantly refers to his ‘umbleness’- Is this intended as a compliment? Justify your answer.
5. How does Charles Dickens explore the concept of love and marriage through the character of Miss Havisham and Miss Betsy Trotwood?
6. How does the Cratchit family keep up their optimism despite their struggles of poverty?
7. **ANSWER ANY ONE IN ABOUT 250 WORDS. 1X15=15**
8. In the Theban trilogy Sophocles presents the two sisters as a contrast to each other. Why do you think Ismene chooses to abide by authority while Antigone goes against it?
9. How explicitly does the prophet Teiresias reveal the guilt of Oedipus? Do you think it is Oedipus’ stupidity that makes him take so long to recognize his guilt and admit it?
10. **Read this excerpt from Devdutt Patnaik’s article “*From Jaya to Mahabharata*”.**

Reading the Mahabharata makes one experience rage; reading the Ramayana makes one experience peace. But things do an about turn when one reaches the last chapter. The last chapter of the Ramayana speaks of how Ram abandons Sita; it shatters the peace and fills one with horror and disgust. The last chapter of the Mahabharata explains how Yudhishtira finally experienced heaven, and one is filled with great joy. Nevertheless when Draupadi falls down, without looking behind, Yudhishtira too abandons his wife in his pursuit of reaching heaven. The two epics are twin epics – meaning one cannot be understood without the other. And so they display remarkable congruence in form. History had always blamed women for the downfall of an era or individual destruction, be it Helen of Troy for her beauty as a curse or Draupadi’s pride. Sita, who had been the passive motherly figure pursuing her silent ways of protesting, also had to go through the “agnipariksha” to prove her sanctity. Ramayana is about rule-upholding at any cost while Mahabharata is about rule-breaking. Rule-upholding seems good in the Ramayana until the last chapter, when innocent Sita is at the receiving end of draconian family traditions. Rule-breaking seems necessary in the Mahabharata, until one realizes the underlying truth through Yudhishtira’s epiphany in the last chapter. Most retellings of the Ramayana ignore the dark last chapter of Sita’s abandonment. It is too much to take. It destroys our image of Ram who is a prime example of contained masculinity. While modern day readers sympathize with the much under estimated Ravana who proves to be a better counterpart possessing greater humanlike qualities, Indian mythology never ceases to establish the fact that heroes like Ram and Yudhistira shed off their women which itself was a trait of hyper-masculinity. A few narrators of the Mahabharata amplify the epiphany of Yudhishtira in the last chapter. It is overshadowed by the complex plots full of dark secrets, intrigue, exploitation, rage, rape, yearning, frustration and bitterness.Thus,Mahabharata is not a preachy tale appealing for peace. It is a determined exploration of the root of conflict. Not surprisingly, Mahabharata has not merited as much translation as the Ramayana. Most storytellers focus only on a few episodes, those that bring joy, like Bhima killing Bakasura, Drona teaching Arjuna, or Krishna rescuing Draupadi. Modern sanitized versions of the tale edit out the controversial characters like Shikhandi.

**III.A. ANSWER ANY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN ABOUT 250 WORDS** **. 1x15=15**

1. ‘Reading the Mahabharata makes one experience rage; reading the Ramayana makes one experience peace’ - Would you agree with the writer? Why?
2. In Devdutt Patnaik’s account both Rama and Yudhishtira seem to be perfect men because of their distance from their wives – How far would you agree?