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**SANSKRIT** **0499/23**

Paper 2 Literature and Epic Civilisation **May/June 2026**

**1 hour 30 minutes**

You must answer on the answer booklet/paper.

You will need: Answer booklet/paper

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Answer **all** questions.
- If you have been given an answer booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet.
- Use a black or dark blue pen.
- Write your name, centre number and candidate number on all the work you hand in.
- Do **not** use an erasable pen. Do **not** use correction fluid or tape.
- At the end of the examination, fasten all your work together. Do **not** use staples, paper clips or glue.

**INFORMATION**

- The total mark for this paper is 90.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].

This document has **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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**[Turn over**

**1** Mahābhārata (adapted text)

Read the following Sanskrit passage. Do **not** write out a translation. Answer **all** the questions. Your answers should be in English, with Sanskrit names in transliteration.

धीवराणाम् नृपम् गत्वा शान्तनुः पृच्छति स्म । तव कन्याम् विवाहे 1
इच्छामि इति। धीवराणाम् नृपः प्रतिवदति स्म यदि सत्यवती तव 2
भार्या भविष्यति तर्हि तस्याः पुत्रः नृपः भविष्यति इति। शान्तनुः राजगृहम् 3
दुःखेन पुनः अगच्छत् । भीष्मः सर्वम् श्रुत्वा धीवराणाम् नृपम् गत्वा 4
तम् वदति स्म । पुरा शान्तनुः माम् अवदत् हे भीष्म त्वम् नृपः भविष्यसि 5
इति । इदानीम् तु सत्यवत्याः पुत्रः नृपः भविष्यति । अहम् नृपः न भविष्यामि 6
इति मम व्रतम् । शान्तनुः सत्यवतीम् परिणयति स्म ॥ 7

**(a)** To whom did Śāntanu go? (line 1) [2]

**(b)** What request did Śāntanu make? (lines 1 and 2) [2]

**(c)** Translate *'yadi satyavatī tava bhāryā bhaviṣyati tarhi tasyāḥ putraḥ nṛpaḥ bhaviṣyati'.* (lines 2 and 3) [6]

**(d)** Where did Śāntanu return to? (lines 3 and 4) [1]

**(e)** What vow did Bhīṣma make? (line 6) [1]

**(f)** Bhīṣma's vow enables Śāntanu to marry Satyavatī, showing the power of speech. Give another example from Sanskrit literature of speech that has a powerful effect. Give an example of vows being made in modern times. [3]

[Total: 15]

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**2** Mahābhārata – Bhagavad Gītā

Read the following Sanskrit verses. Do **not** write out a translation. Answer **all** the questions. Your answers should be in English, with Sanskrit names in transliteration.

एवं बुद्धेः परं बुद्ध्वा संस्तभ्यात्मानमात्मना । *1*

जहि शत्रुं महाबाहो कामरूपं दुरासदम्॥ *2*

यो मां पश्यति सर्वत्र सर्वं च मयि पश्यति । *3*

तस्याहं न प्रणश्यामि स च मे न प्रणश्यति ॥ *4*

मनःप्रसादः सौम्यत्वं मौनमात्मविनिग्रहः । *5*

भावसंशुद्धिरित्येतत्तपो मानसमुच्यते ॥ *6*

*Chap. 3, verse 43; Chap. 6, verse 30; Chap.17, verse 16*

**(a)** Translate lines 1 and 2. [6]

**(b)** Who, according to line 3, never becomes lost to Kṛṣṇa? [4]

**(c)** Name in English three aspects of the austerity of mind spoken of in line 5. [3]

**(d)** Line 6 speaks of *'bhāvasaṃśuddhi'*, 'purity of being'. Would this quality be helpful in modern society? Give a reason for your answer. [2]

[Total: 15]

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**3** Sanskrit Epic Civilisation

**(a)** Give two details for each of the following terms:

**(i)** *karman* [2]

**(ii)** *puruṣa* [2]

**(iii)** *avidyā* [2]

**(iv)** *saṃsāra* [2]

**(b)** One of the *guṇa* is *sattva*, the quality of purity and brightness. Give the Sanskrit terms for the other two *guṇa*, with their English translations. [4]

**(c)** The inner organ of mind comprises *manas*, *buddhi*, *citta* and *ahaṅkāra*. Explain any three of these four Sanskrit terms. [6]

**(d)** There are four yugas or ages. We are said to be living in the Kaliyuga, the 'iron age' which lasts for 432 000 years. Give the Sanskrit name for one of the other ages, along with its English translation. [2]

**(e)** Briefly explain each of the following literary terms:

**(i)** *veda* [2]

**(ii)** *smṛti* [2]

**(iii)** *vyākaraṇa* [1]

**(f)** Write a short essay of about 100 words, in English, on one of these two topics:

EITHER

**(i)** The Sanskrit word 'avatāra' has entered the English language as 'avatar'. The Sanskrit words 'karma' and 'guru' have also entered English. Discuss how these three words are used in modern times.

OR

**(ii)** Puruṣārtha, or the purpose of human life, is said to have four aspects, the first one of which is kāma, sensual enjoyment. Briefly outline the other aspects and say if you think this system is a useful way of viewing life. [10]

[Total: 35]

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**4** Pañcatantra

Read the following Sanskrit passage. Do **not** write out a translation. Answer **all** the questions. Your answers should be in English.

*The weighing scales and the merchant's son.*

अथासौ वणिक्शिशुः स्नानोपकरणमादाय प्रहृष्टमनास्तेनाभ्यागतेन सह प्रस्थितः । 1
तथानुष्ठिते वणिक्स्नात्वा तं शिशुं नदीगुहायां प्रक्षिप्य तद् द्वारं बृहच्छिलयाच्छाद्य 2
सत्वरं गृहमागतः । पृष्टश्च तेन वणिजा --- भो अभ्यागत कथ्यतां कुत्र मे 3
शिशुर्यस्त्वया सह नदीं गत इति । स आह नदीतटात्स श्येनेन हृत इति । 4
श्रेष्ठ्याह --- मिथ्यावादिन् किं क्वचिच्छ्येनो बालं हर्तुं शक्नोति । तत्समर्पय मे 5
सुतम् । अन्यथा राजकुले निवेदयिष्यामि इति । स आह --- भोः सत्यवादिन् 6
यथा श्येनो बालं न नयति तथा मूषिका अपि लोहभारघटितां तुलां न 7
भक्षयन्ति । तदर्पय मे तुलां यदि दारकेण प्रयोजनम् । 8

**(a)** Before setting off, what did the money-lender's son take with him? (line 1) [2]

**(b)** **(i)** Translate *'prahṛṣṭamanāḥ'*. (line 1) [2]

**(ii)** What type of compound is this? [1]

**(c)** Where did the merchant hide the money-lender's son, and with what did he block its entrance? (line 2) [4]

**(d)** Translate *'kathyatāṃ kutra me śiśur yas tvayā saha nadīṃ gataḥ'*. (lines 3 and 4) [6]

**(e)** What does the merchant say has happened to the money-lender's son? (line 4) [4]

**(f)** How does the money-lender threaten the merchant? (line 6) [3]

**(g)** In this passage, what typical features of stories from the Pañcatantra are found? Refer to the text in your answer. [3]

[Total: 25]

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