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Question: According to the text, what makes dating the Valmiki Ramayana particularly challenging compared to other works of world literature?

- A) The lack of agreement on the historicity of the characters.
- B) The wide range of scholarly opinions on its date, spanning millennia.
- C) The complex narrative structure and obscure origins of the poem.
- D) The difficulty in deciphering the ancient Sanskrit language.

Correct Answer: B

2

Question: What is the primary obstacle to establishing the date of the Ramayana using external evidence?

- A) The poem's immense popularity and wide circulation.
- B) The absence of independent historical or archaeological corroboration.
- C) The numerous interpolations and additions to the original text.
- D) The legendary status of Valmiki, the poem's author.

Correct Answer: B

3

Question: Which books of the Ramayana are generally considered later additions by scholars?

- A) Books Two through Six
- B) Bala and Uttara Kandas
- C) The entire first half of the epic
- D) Books with significant linguistic irregularities

Correct Answer: B

4

Question: In the absence of reliable external evidence, what kind of evidence do scholars rely on to date the Ramayana?

- A) Archaeological findings and epigraphical inscriptions.
- B) Testimonies from other literary and technical works.
- C) Internal evidence such as linguistic, stylistic, cultural, and geographical details within the text.
- D) Comparisons with Greek epics and other world literature.

Correct Answer: C

5

Question: What is one of the complexities surrounding the authorship of the Ramayana?

- A) Valmiki is only known as a character within the poem itself.
- B) The poem exists in numerous recensions, making it difficult to identify the original version.
- C) The text contains demonstrable interpolations added over time, indicating multiple authors or periods.
- D) All of the above.

Correct Answer: D