Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani

Readings from Drama (HSS F221)

Comprehensive Examination (Open Book)

May 13, 2016 Full Marks: 35

**Marks will be deducted for spelling mistakes and illegible handwriting. The word limit for questions 1 and 2 is 350-400 while for questions 3 and 4, it is 100-150. The students are allowed to have hard copies of the primary and secondary texts as well as class notes. No electronic gadgets are allowed.**

1. Saoli Mitra's *Timeless Tales* alternatively describes the tragedy of the queens, princesses and queen mothers in *The Mahabharata* and how they suffer in the roles that they had to play all through. Pick up any three royal women from the play and analyze their characters with close references to the text, keeping in mind the above observation. **10**

2. One of the advantages of reading a Sanskrit play from antiquity is to have a perception of the prevalent society. Do you think Bhasa's *The Dream of Vasavadatta* falls into this category? Substantiate your answer with references to the text. **10**

3. Comment on the role of three witches in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. **8**

4.What is the importance of Act VII in Kalidasa's *Shakuntala*? **7**