Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani

I Semester, 2016-2017

Readings from Drama (HSS F221)

Comprehensive Examination (Open Book)

December 14, 2016 Full Marks: 35

**Marks will be deducted for spelling mistakes and illegible handwriting. The word limit for question 1 is 350-400 while for questions 2 and 3, it is 250-300. 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 *Five Lords Yet None a Protector* deconstructs the phallocentric ideology that informs the epic. Analyze the play with close textual references keeping in mind the above observation. **15**

2. "Kalidasa, in writing *Shakuntala*, was also summing up, unconsciously, an entire dharma, a code of humane values". Pick up **five** such instances from the text and state their relevance to the overall meaning of the play. **10**

3. One of the problems faced by dramatists of ancient Sanskrit plays was the problem of production. Bhasa was not an exception to this. Keeping this observation in mind, analyze *The Dream of Vasavadatta* as a play from antiquity, and comment on whether Bhasa was successful in creating a "magic on stage". **10**