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B.A. (CBCS) DEGREE EXAMINATION,
NOVEMBER 2024

Second Semester

English – Core

AMERICAN LITERATURE

(For those who joined in July 2023 onwards)

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 75 marks

PART A — (10 × 1 = 10 marks)

Answer ALL questions.

Choose the correct answer :

1. What Indian text heavily influenced Ralph Waldo Emerson's transcendentalist philosophy?
 - (a) The Bhagavad Gita
 - (b) The Vedas
 - (c) The Upanishads
 - (d) The Ramayana

2. Who was the leader of the Jamestown settlement?
 - (a) John Smith
 - (b) John Rolfe
 - (c) William Bradford
 - (d) Christopher Newport
3. Who is the "Captain" referred to in the poem "O Captain ! My Captain !"?
 - (a) Abraham Lincoln
 - (b) George Washington
 - (c) Ulysses S. Grant
 - (d) Robert E. Lee
4. What is the raven's response when asked about its identity?
 - (a) "Nevermore"
 - (b) "Forevermore"
 - (c) "Alwaysmore"
 - (d) "No more"
5. What is the central theme of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech?
 - (a) Economic inequality
 - (b) Racial segregation
 - (c) Gender discrimination
 - (d) Religious freedom

6. What does Emerson criticize in "Self-Reliance" as a hindrance to individuality?
 - (a) Education (b) Religion
 - (c) Society (d) Government
7. What is the occupation of the gentleman caller, Jim O'Connor?
 - (a) Lawyer (b) Doctor
 - (c) Factory Worker (d) Salesman
8. What does Tom often do to escape reality in the play *The Glass Menagerie*?
 - (a) Drinks alcohol
 - (b) Listens to music
 - (c) Reads books
 - (d) Writes poetry
9. Who is the young minister tormented by guilt over his secret sin in *The Scarlet Letter*?
 - (a) Reverend Arthur Dimmesdale
 - (b) Governor Bellingham
 - (c) Roger
 - (d) James

10. What sin does Hester Prynne commit that leads to her wearing the scarlet letter 'A'?
 - (a) Murder (b) Robbery
 - (c) Adultery (d) Blasphemy

PART B — (5 × 5 = 25 marks)

Answer ALL questions, choosing either (a) or (b).

Each answer should not exceed 250 words.

11. (a) How did the Salem witch trials reflect the tensions and anxieties within Puritan society?
 Or
 (b) What were the key factors contributing to the flowering of New England in the 17th century?
12. (a) How does Dickinson explore the inevitability of death and the passage of time through the speaker's journey with Death in "Because I could not stop for Death"?
 Or
 (b) Discuss the theme of nostalgia in "Birches" by Robert Frost.

13. (a) How does King effectively appeal to his audience's emotions, logic and values to convey his message of racial equality and justice?

Or

- (b) How does Emerson argue that self-trust is essential for personal growth and fulfillment in life in "Self-Reliance"?
14. (a) Discuss the character of Tom Wingfield in Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*.
- Or
- (b) Analyze the theme of memory in Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*.
15. (a) Discuss the role of society as a character in Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*.
- Or
- (b) "Reverend Arthur Dimmesdale is a complex and tormented character in *The Scarlet Letter*"— Illustrate it.

PART C — (5 × 8 = 40 marks)

Answer ALL questions, choosing either (a) or (b).

Each answer should not exceed 600 words.

16. (a) In what ways did Ralph Waldo Emerson incorporate Indian philosophical ideas into his transcendentalist philosophy?

Or

- (b) Discuss the impact of the Puritans on the development of American political institutions and the concept of religious freedom.
17. (a) Explore the metaphorical significance of the ship and the journey in "O Captain! My Captain!"
- Or
- (b) Identify the theme of escapism in "Birches" by Robert Frost.
18. (a) Discuss the impact of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech on contemporary society.

Or

- (b) Analyze Emerson's views on conformity and individualism in "Self-Reliance".

19. (a) Elaborate on the character of Laura Wingfield in Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*.

Or

- (b) Analyze the significance of the glass menagerie as a symbol of escape and fragility in Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*.
20. (a) Evaluate the role of the scarlet letter 'A' as a symbol in Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*.

Or

- (b) "Governor Bellingham represents the authority and hypocrisy of Puritan society in *The Scarlet Letter*"— Justify it.
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