

(7 pages)

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B.A. (CBCS) DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2025.

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. Which American writer is associated with "The Flowering of New England?"
(a) Ralph Waldo Emerson
(b) Thoreau
(c) Whitman
(d) Robert Frost

2. What is the religious group that settled in America seeking religious freedom?
(a) Puritans (b) Catholics
(c) Anglicans (d) Jews
3. What emotion is conveyed in the line "Fallen cold and dead"?
(a) Joy (b) Grief
(c) Anger (d) Triumph
4. What is the narrator's emotional state throughout the poem "The Raven"?
(a) Hopeful (b) Desperate
(c) Joyful (d) Confused
5. What famous document does Martin Luther King Jr. reference in his speech to appeal to America's founding principles?
(a) Bill of Rights
(b) Declaration of Independence
(c) Emancipation Proclamation
(d) United States Constitution

6. When was Ralph Waldo Emerson's essay "Self-Reliance" first published?

- (a) 1836 (b) 1841
- (c) 1850 (d) 1860

7. What does Amanda encourage Laura to do to attract Jim's attention?

- (a) Play the piano (b) Dance
- (c) Recite poetry (d) Sing

8. What does Tom buy for Laura during one of his nights out?

- (a) A dress (b) Flowers
- (c) A piece of glass (d) A book of poetry

9. *The Scarlet Letter* is a master piece of _____

- (a) Emerson
- (b) Miller
- (c) Henry James
- (d) Nathaniel Hawthorne

10. Who is the illegitimate daughter of Hester Prynne and Reverend Arthur Dimmesdale?

- (a) Pearl (b) Persia
- (c) Peulha (d) Papinna

PART B — (5 × 5 = 25 marks)

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

Each answer should not exceed 250 words.

11. (a) Describe the motivations of the Puritans for settling in America and explain how Puritanism spread throughout the colonies.

Or

(b) How did American Romantic literature embody both optimism and pessimism in its portrayal of the American landscape?

12. (a) Examine the theme of death and eternity in the poem 'Because I could not stop for Death'.

Or

(b) Trace the evolution of thought in "The Raven".

13. (a) Analyze the historical and cultural context of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream".

Or

- (b) Examine Emerson's views on the relationship between self-reliance and spiritual growth in "Self-Reliance".
14. (a) Examine the theme of fragility in *The Glass Menagerie*.

Or

- (b) Bring out the major conflict in the play *The Glass Menagerie*.
15. (a) Comment on the Symbolism in *The Scarlet Letter*.

Or

- (b) Explore the theme of Public Shame and Judgment in *The Scarlet Letter*.

PART C — (5 × 8 = 40 marks)

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

Each answer should not exceed 600 words.

16. (a) Describe how the Puritan emphasis on education contributed to the flowering of New England.

Or

- (b) "Walt Whitman's poetry reflects his engagement with Indian thought and spirituality" - Examine.

17. (a) "O Captain! My Captain!" is an elegy-justify your answer.

Or

- (b) analyze the use of imagery in "Birches" by Robert Frost.

18. (a) "I Have a Dream" is a clarion call for the freedom of the black people in America-Analyse it.

Or

- (b) Examine the main idea of Emerson's "Self-Reliance".

19. (a) Discuss the significance of the fire escape as a symbol in Tennessee Williams *The Glass Menagerie*.

Or

- (b) Identify the significance of the unicorn in *The Glass Menagerie*.

20. (a) Justify the title of the play *The Scarlet Letter*.

Or

- (b) Comment on Hester's journey towards self-discovery and redemption in *The Scarlet Letter*.
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