

Ba/ENG/M-3

2025

(FYUGP)

(3rd Semester)

ENGLISH

(MINOR)

Paper Code : ENG/M-3

(**American Literature**)

Full Marks : 75

Pass Marks : 40%

Time : 3 hours

(PART : B—DESCRIPTIVE)

(*Marks : 50*)

The questions are of equal value

1. (a) Write a note on the two traditions of American poetry with reference to Emerson and Poe.

Or

- (b) Discuss how the political and social transformations of the late 19th and early 20th centuries contribute to the rise of social realism in American literature.



2. (a) How does the play, *All My Sons* explore the ideal of American dream corrupting the ethical values of the characters?

Or

- (b) How does Tennessee Williams use the theme of memory to shape the character's perceptions of their past and present in *The Glass Menagerie*?

Or

Discuss the symbolism of the title *The Glass Menagerie*.

3. (a) In the novel, *The Bluest Eye*, how does the concept of family function as a safeguard or a failure to safeguard the female characters?

Or

- (b) How does Toni Morrison explore the theme of Black internalization in *The Bluest Eye*, particularly with reference to the Breedlove family?

4. (a) In *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, how does Maya Angelou depict the role of Mrs. Bertha Flowers in shaping her identity and self-expression?

Or

- (b) How does William Faulkner explore the themes of racial tension, mob mentality and social injustice in *Dry September*?

5. (a) Discuss how Walt Whitman explores the themes of individuality, the self, and the interconnectedness of all people in *Song of Myself*.

Or

- (b) Comment on the theme of race and gender on any two poems from the syllabus.

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(PART : A—OBJECTIVE)

(Marks : 25)

The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions

SECTION—I

(Marks : 15)

Put a Tick (✓) mark against the correct answer in the brackets provided : 1×15=15

1. What is the central idea of the 'American Dream'?

- (a) Government control over wealth ()
- (b) Equal opportunity for success through hard work ()
- (c) Guaranteed wealth for all citizens ()
- (d) Limited freedom and strict social hierarchy ()

2. What was the name of the man who was incarcerated because of Joe Keller?

(a) Chris ()

(b) Larry ()

(c) Steve ()

(d) Frank ()

3. What does the apple tree in *All My Sons* symbolize?

(a) The family's financial success ()

(b) Larry's death and the family's unresolved grief ()

(c) The American Dream fulfilled ()

(d) Joe Keller's guilt about his crime ()

4. What does Laura's glass menagerie represent?

(a) The wealth of the Wingfield family ()

(b) Laura's fragility and inner world ()

(c) Amanda's past as a Southern belle ()

(d) Tom's desire for adventure ()

5. From whose memory perspective is the play, *The Glass Menagerie* told?

(a) Tom Wingfield ()

(b) Laura ()

(c) Amanda Wingfield ()

(d) Jim O'Connor ()

6. What does Maureen Peal represent in *The Bluest Eye*?

(a) The strength of African American family bonds ()

(b) The beauty and privilege associated with whiteness and colorism ()

(c) The traditional values of black community ()

(d) A victim of poverty and racism ()

7. What is the name of Cholly's aunt in *The Bluest Eye*?

(a) Mrs. MacTeer ()

(b) Auntie Jimmy ()

(c) Aunt Sarah ()

(d) Bertha Jones ()

8. Why does Pauline agree to be called 'Polly'?

- (a) She wants to escape from her abusive husband ()
- (b) She is forced into the role against her will ()
- (c) She wants to earn more money ()
- (d) She sees it as a way to fit into a world that values whiteness ()

9. What central theme is explored in William Faulkner's *Dry September*?

- (a) The importance of industrialization in the South ()
- (b) The joys of romantic love in small towns ()
- (c) The destructive power of rumor and racial prejudice ()
- (d) The struggle for economic success during the Great Depression ()

10. Who is Miss Minnie Cooper in *Dry September*?

- (a) A young teacher accused of spreading lies ()
- (b) A respected business woman in town ()
- (c) A lonely, aging white woman who accuses a Black man of assault ()
- (d) A maid who witnesses the alleged crime ()

11. What role does Will Mayes play?

- (a) A wealthy landowner ()
- (b) The Black man falsely accused of assaulting Miss Minnie ()
- (c) A town preacher who tries to mediate ()
- (d) A barber who seeks justice ()

12. How does Mrs. Bertha Flowers help Maya regain her voice in *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*?

- (a) By encouraging her to participate in public speaking competitions ()
- (b) By sending her to a therapist ()
- (c) By making her join acting ()
- (d) By introducing her to classical literature and encouraging her to read aloud ()

13. What does the breaking of Mrs. Sullivan's fish casserole by Maya symbolize in *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*?

- (a) Maya's rebellion against authority ()
- (b) Maya's rejection of traditional southern values ()
- (c) Maya's internalized guilt, emotional fragility and sense of failure ()
- (d) Maya's desire to escape her family responsibilities ()

14. In Walt Whitman's *Song of Myself*, the 'I' apart from representing the poet himself also symbolizes

(a) a specific historical figure ()

(b) the collective American identity or universal self ()

(c) a fictional character ()

(d) a religious Prophet ()

15. What does the river Nile represent in *The Negro Speaks of Rivers*?

(a) Dawn of human civilization ()

(b) A symbol of the ancient African homeland ()

(c) A powerful symbol of African achievement ()

(d) Painful history of slavery in America ()

SECTION—II

(Marks : 10)

Answer any *five* of the following :

2×5=10

1. Write a brief note on the use of poetic form in American poetry.

2. What does Pecola believe will make her beautiful and loved in *The Bluest Eye*?

3. What is Chris Keller's relationship to Larry in *All My Sons*?

4. Who is Jim O'Connor?

5. What is the importance of the stolen letter in *The Purloined Letter*?

6. What does the ship in *O Captain! My Captain!* symbolize?

7. What idea about human relationships is suggested in the poem, *Mending Wall*?

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