

18. Discuss the central idea of Ralph Waldo Emerson's essay *The American Scholar*.
 19. What is Arthur Miller trying to say about the dream in *Death of a Salesman*? Explain.
 20. Analyse the role of puritan society in *The Scarlet Letter*.
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S.No. 1918

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(For candidates admitted from 2016–2021 batch)

B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2023.

Part III — English – Major

AMERICAN LITERATURE

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 75 marks

PART A — (10 × 2 = 20)

Answer ALL questions.

1. Why did Whitman name the title of the poem as *I Hear America Singing*?
2. What comparison is made with the wings of the bird in *A Bird Came Down the Walk*?
3. How does the speaker in *Mending Wall* characterize his neighbour?
4. What kind of allusion is made in *Lady Lazarus*?
5. Mention the dreams of Martin Luther King, Jr.
6. Which occasion did Emerson deliver *The American Scholar*.

7. What does Biff suggest he and Happy do to change their lives?
8. What is it that prevents Willy from accepting the offer of a job from Charley?
9. Is Dimmesdale ashamed of his guilt?
10. What is the symbolic significance of the Scarlet Letter?

PART B — (5 × 5 = 25)

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

11. (a) Explain how Whitman highlights individuals that often go unnoticed in *I Hear America Singing*.

Or

- (b) How has Dickinson portrayed the bird in *A Bird Came Down the Walk*.

12. (a) What do the gaps symbolize in *Mending Wall*?

Or

- (b) Mention Lady Lazarus's attitude towards men.

13. (a) Discuss the pledge taken in *I Have a Dream*. When will it be fulfilled?

Or

- (b) Comment on the main influences the scholar receives, according to Emerson?

14. (a) What is revealed about teenage Biff's popularity with girls?

Or

- (b) Analyse Harpy's attitude to the news that his father is contemplating suicide.

15. (a) Elucidate on the symbols darkness and light as mentioned in *The Scarlet Letter*.

Or

- (b) Discuss the relationship between the scarlet letter and Hester's identity.

PART C — (3 × 10 = 30)

Answer any THREE questions.

16. Comment on the theme of Dickinson's *A Bird Came Down the Walk*.

17. Explicate the interplay between life and death in the poem '*Lady Lazarus*'.