

(6 pages)

S.No. 9160

RMENS 7

(For candidates admitted from 2005–2006 onwards)

M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2023.

English

AMERICAN LITERATURE

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 100 marks

1. Annotate any FIVE of the following choosing not more than THREE from each Section: (5 × 4 = 20)

SECTION – A

- (a) Nor for you, for one alone,
Blossoms and branches green to coffins all I
bring,
For fresh as the morning, thus would I chant
a song for you O sane and sacred death.
- (b) When "Landlords" turn the drunken Bee
Out of the Foxglove's door –
When Butterflies – renounce their "drams"—
I shall but drink the more!

- (c) He moves in darkness as it seems to me,
Not of woods only and the shade of trees.
He will not go behind his father's saying,
And he likes having thought of it so well
- (d) We passed the School, where Children strove
At Recess – in the Ring –
We passed the Fields of Gazing Grain –
We passed the Setting Sun –

SECTION – B

- (e) He shall see, that nature is the opposite of
the soul, answering to it part for part. One is
seal, and one is print. Its beauty is the
beauty of his own mind. Its laws are the laws
of his own mind. Nature then becomes to
him the measure of his attainments.
- (f) Character is higher than intellect. Thinking
is the function. Living is the functionary.
The stream retreats to its source. A great
soul will be strong to live, as well as strong
to think. Does he lack organ or medium to
impart his truths?
- (g) I'm never too drunk to sing. 'Tis only when
I'm dead to the world I'd be wishful to sing at
all. [With a sort of sad contempt.] "Whiskey
Johnny," ye want? A chanty, ye want? Now
that's a queer wish from the ugly like of you.
God help you. But no matter.

(h) De Bible, huh? De Cap'tlist class, huh? Aw nix on dat Salvation Army – Socialist bull. Git a soapbox! Hire a hall! Come and be saved, huh? Jerk us to Jesus, huh? Aw g'wan! I've listened to lots of guys like you, see, Yuh're all wrong.

2. Explicate any ONE of the following passages, commenting on its structure, texture, tone, and meaning: (1 × 10 = 10)

(a) May no fate willfully misunderstand me

And half grant what I wish and snatch me away

Not to return. Earth's the right place for love:

I don't know where its likely to go better.

I'd like to go by climbing a birch tree,

And climb black branches up a snow-white trunk

Toward heaven, till the tree could bear no more,

But dipped its top and set me down again.

That would be good both going and coming back.

One could do worse than be a swinger of birches.

(b) For the instinct is sure, that prompts him to tell his brother what he thinks. He then learns, that in going down into the secrets of his own mind, he has descended into the secrets of all minds. He learns that he who has mastered any law in his private thoughts, is master to that extent of all men whose language he speaks, and of all into whose language his own can be translated. The poet, in utter solitude remembering his spontaneous thoughts and recording them, is found to have recorded that, which men in crowded cities find true for them also. The orator distrusts at first the fitness of his frank confessions, – his want of knowledge of the persons he addresses, – until he finds that he is the complement of his hearers; – that they drink his words because he fulfils for them their own nature; the deeper he dives into his privatest, secretest presentiment, to his wonder he finds, this is the most acceptable, most public, and universally true. The people delight in it; the better part of every man feels, This is my music; this is myself.

3. Answer any TWO of the following questions in about 200 words each, choosing ONE from each Section: (2 × 15 = 30)

SECTION — A

- (a) Comment on Dickinson's description of the aftermath of liquor.
- (b) Discuss Emerson's remarks on intellectual independence.
- (c) Analyze the role of Paddy in *The Hairy Ape*.

SECTION — B

- (d) How does Albee portray the life of Martha in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*?
- (e) How far is Ahab a blasphemous figure in *Moby Dick*?
- (f) Analyze the theme of death in "The Emperor of Ice-Cream."

4. Answer any TWO of the following questions in about 800 words each, choosing ONE from each Section: (2 × 20 = 40)

SECTION — A

- (a) Examine the elegiac qualities in "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd."
- (b) Summarize Emerson's remarks on Man Thinking.
- (c) Examine the class struggle and alienation in *The Hairy Ape*.

SECTION — B

- (d) Explore the role of Kate Keller in *All My Sons*.
 - (e) Discuss the theme of racial discrimination in *A Raisin in the Sun*.
 - (f) How do Frank and Morris grapple with their own sense of identity and belonging in a changing and challenging world in *The Assistant*?
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