

**Third Semester M.A. Degree Examination**

**English Language and Literature**

**Paper XI-EL 533.4: American Literature**

**(2022 admission onwards)**

**Time: 3 Hours**

**Max Marks : 75**

**I. Answer any five of the following in about 50 words.**

1. Write a note on words and images as elements in a linguistic system as presented in "The Red Wheel Barrow".
2. Comment on Beat poets as a counter culture movement.
3. Write a brief note on the Provincetown Players.
4. List two characteristics of the Lost Generation poets.
5. Comment on the Harlem Renaissance as an intellectual and cultural movement.
6. Discuss Confessional poetry.
7. Comment on the significance of the title "Daughter" by Gertrude Stein.
8. Explain the paradox in Emily Dickinson's "There is Something Quieter than Sleep".

**(5x2=10 marks)**

**II. Answer any five of the following questions in about 100 words.**

9. Give a brief note on memory and desire as expressed in Tennessee William's *The Glass Menagerie*.
10. How does Santiago embody the essential nobility of human striving ?
11. Discuss the expressionistic techniques used in *Emperor Jones*.
12. Comment on stress, humour and ethical concern in the American Experimental novels.
13. Discuss estrangement and alienation in 'As Agony: As Now'.
14. Explain guilt and empathy in *Death of a Salesman*.
15. Describe American Transcendentalism.
16. Comment on Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* as a critique of oppression and internalized racism.

**(5x5=25 marks)**

- III. Answer any two of the following questions in about 300 words choosing one from each group.

**Group A**

17. Comment on Walt Whitman's use of symbolism in "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking".
18. Discuss how the craftsmanship of Poe and Hawthorne are deep-rooted in American history.
19. Ralph Ellison uses cultural tendencies as tools of social satire. Discuss with reference to *Invisible Man*

**Group B**

20. Evaluate Emerson as a transcendentalist.
21. Critically evaluate O' Neill's *Emperor Jones* as a dramatic monologue
22. Frost's method was that of realism born of ordinary things . Analyse this statement with reference to "Birches".

**(15x2=30 marks)**

- IV. Critically analyse and answer any one of the following questions in about 150 words

23. " Society is a joint-stock company, in which the members agree, for the better securing of his bread to each shareholder, to surrender the liberty and culture of the eater. The virtue in most request is conformity" . Comment critically.
24. Present the main arguments in the given passage in not more than two sentences and attempt a one-page critical note on the passage.

When we speak of the ugliness of American foreign policy, we cannot separate our disgust with that from the knowledge that these official Negroes, as such, must be the repositories of those same policies. The best interests of the black man in America cannot be furthered by these puppets and messengers. It is not in the best interests of the black American if another black American suggests to the world that the only

way in which his people are going to achieve their independence is to get walked on in public places or blown out of buses. And it is strictly up to those black people who realize these things to come out and say them. Not only say them, but act upon them. And we must act now, in what I see as an extreme "nationalism," i.e., in the best interests of our country, the name of which the rest of America has pounded into our heads for four hundred years, Black.

25. Discuss the themes of struggle and self- discovery with the following passage as a point of reference:

In going underground, I whipped it all except the mind, the mind. And the mind that has conceived a plan of living must never lose sight of the chaos against which that pattern was conceived. That goes for societies as well as for individuals. Thus, having tried to give pattern to the chaos which lives within the pattern of your certainties, I must come out, I must emerge. And there's still a conflict within me: With Louis Armstrong one half of me says, "Open the window and let the foul air out," while the other says, "It was good green corn before the harvest." Of course Louis was kidding, he wouldn't have thrown old Bad Air out, because it would have broken up the music and the dance, when it was the good music that came from the bell of old Bad Air's horn that counted. Old Bad Air is still around with his music and his dancing and his diversity, and I'll be up and around with mine. And, as I said before, a decision has been made. I'm shaking off the old skin and I'll leave it here in the hole.

**(10x1=10 marks)**