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[19HKMDENN-MS4(N)19A]

MA 4th Semester (New) Exam., 2019 (S)

ENGLISH

[PGEG-S4-03]

(American Literature)

Full Marks : 80

Time : 3 hours

The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions

1. *(a)* Answer each of the following questions in *one* or *two* sentence(s) : 1×8=8

(i) Define the term 'transcendentalism'.

(ii) Point out one feature of realism in the context of American literature.

(iii) Mention the names of any two poems by Ralph Waldo Emerson.

(iv) Which poem is regarded as the preface to the *Leaves of Grass*?

(v) What does the bird symbolize in Emily Dickinson's poem, *A Bird came down the Walk* ?

(vi) Identify two most common themes in Robert Frost's poetry.

(vii) What does the term 'lost generation' refer to?

(viii) Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* is a picaresque novel. What is the meaning of the term 'picaresque'?

(b) Choose the correct options from the following : 1×4=4

(i) Eugene O'Neill continuously experimented with various dramatic techniques and his plays were mostly
(1) expressionistic
(2) impressionistic
(3) absurdist
(4) realistic

(ii) Who is the author of the book, *The Ecclesiastical History of New England* ?
(1) Michael Wigglesworth
(2) Cotton Mather
(3) Edward Taylor
(4) Anne Dudley Bradstreet

(iii) Who, among the following, is not associated with 'confessional poetry'?
(1) John Berryman
(2) Edgar Allan Poe
(3) Sylvia Plath
(4) Robert Lowell

(iv) The term 'American personalism' was coined by
(1) Emily Dickinson
(2) Walt Whitman
(3) Robert Frost
(4) T. S. Eliot

(c) Fill in the blanks : 1×4=4

(i) Robert Frost borrowed the title of his book, *A Boy's Will* from _____.

(ii) Herman Melville's *Billy Budd* consists of _____ chapters.

(iii) _____ is an old fisherman who is luckless but undaunted and for 84 days, he has caught nothing.

(iv) _____ was the first American dramatist to receive the Nobel Prize for literature.

(Continued)

2. Answer any *five* from the following questions (each in around *50* words) : 2×5=10

(a) Give a brief idea of Edward Taylor's religious poetry.

(b) Why did Benjamin Franklin use cartoons in his newspaper, *Pennsylvania Gazette*?

(c) State two characteristics of Ernest Hemingway as a novelist.

(d) What does Herman Melville's novel, *Moby Dick* deal with?

(e) Briefly state Mark Twain's view on 'slavery' as noted in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.*

(f) Who are the major characters of the play, *Desire Under the Elms*?

3. Answer any *four* from the following questions (each in around *150* words) : 3×4=12

(a) Explain briefly Ernest Hemingway's experiences of World War I as recorded in some of his works.

(b) Reflect upon Herman Melville's use of animal imagery in his novel, *Billy Budd.*

(c) Write briefly on the impact of 'naturalism' in American literature.

(d) Who are the major figures associated with American modernism? Write briefly on their significant works. 1+2=3

(e) What does Emily Dickinson's poem, *Much Madness is Divinest Sense* deal with? Explain.

4. Answer any *three* from the following questions (each in around *250* words) : 6×3=18

(a) State the connection between modern American poetry and the idea of the self.

(b) Discuss the significance of William Bradford as a writer of the colonial period.

Or

What are some of the features of modernism in the context of America? Explain.

(c) Attempt a critical appreciation of Walt Whitman's poem, *The Wound-Dresser.*

(d) What are the major thematic concerns found in Robert Frost's poetry? Discuss in detail.

5. Answer any *three* from the following questions (each in around *300* words) : 8×3=24

(a) Discuss Eugene O'Neill as a playwright with special reference to his play, *Desire Under the Elms.*

(b) Analyze Ernest Hemingway's treatment of the theme of 'man and nature' in *The Old Man and the Sea.*

(c) Provide a character sketch of Billy Budd as presented by the novelist Herman Melville.

(d) Discuss the poetic techniques of Emily Dickinson with reference to her poems, *Much Madness is Divinest Sense* and *A Bird came down the Walk.*

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