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107 (AL)

[19–HKMDEGO–M4S(O)19A]

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

ENGLISH

[MEG (S4) 15]

(American Literature)

Full Marks : 80

Time : 3 hours

The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions

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

(a) What were the two most common themes that pervaded early American writings of the Puritan period?

(b) State two features of American Romanticism.

(c) Explain in brief Walt Whitman's doctrine of 'personalism'.

(d) What is the central idea of Emily Dickinson's poem, *Much Madness is Divinest Sense*?

(e) Briefly explain the term 'Lost Generation'.

(f) Briefly state Herman Melville's Christian references as noted in the novel, *Billy Budd*.

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

(a) Provide an idea of Eugene O'Neill's major plays.

(b) Discuss in brief the contribution of Edward Taylor to the growth of American poetry in the colonial period.

(c) Highlight the basic principles of American transcendentalism.

(d) Describe the 'man-nature' relationship as evident in Ernest Hemingway's, *The Old Man and the Sea.*

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

(a) Attempt a critical appreciation of *One's Self I Sing* focussing on the poet's idea of self.

(b) Highlight the significance of 'Nature' in Emily Dickinson's poetry with special reference to the poems prescribed.

(c) *Billy Budd* deals with the theme of innocence and corruption of innocence by society. Elaborate.

(d) Provide a character sketch of Eben Cabot.

4. Answer any *four* from the following questions (each in around *500* words) : 10×4=40

(a) Reflect upon the various social and intellectual contexts of American literature during the Puritan period.

(b) Discuss the contribution of any two transcendentalist writers to American literature. 5+5=10

(c) Discuss Walt Whitman as a modern poet with particular reference to his poems, *The Wound Dresser* and *One's Self I Sing.*

(d) Hemingway's simple, lucid, fresh and clean narrative style is his greatest contribution to literature and his true claim to fame. Discuss the statement with reference to his novel, *The Old Man and the Sea.*

(e) Comment on the poetic techniques of Emily Dickinson. Illustrate your answer with sufficient examples from the prescribed texts.

Or

Discuss the major themes of Eugene O'Neill's *Desire Under The Elms.*

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