

SECOND SEMESTER M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, JUNE 2014

(CUCSS)

English Language and Literature
EN 2E 07—AMERICAN LITERATURE
(2012 Admissions)

Three Hours

Maximum : 36 Weightage

I. Answer *all* the following questions in a word, phrase or sentence :—

- 1 What does the wife in "Home Burial" resent ?
- 2 Who is the speaker in Crane's "Poem : To Brooklyn Bridge" ?
- 3 When was "America" written ?
- 4 What does Thoreau call on Abolitionists to do ?

(4 × ½ = 2 weightage)

- 5 What is the significance of the phrase "Tar Baby" ?
- 6 In *Moby Dick*, which biblical figure is the focus of Father Mapple's sermon ?
- 7 How does Mitch verify the stories Stanley tells him about Blanche ?
- 8 Why does Willy Loman reject Charley's job offer ?

(4 × ½ = 2 weightage)

II. Answer any *six* of the following questions in a paragraph of 150 words each :—

- 9 The unusual words and phrases in "The Raven".
- 10 The importance of Nature in American poetry.
- 11 World War II Nazi Germany allusions and images in "Lady Lazarus".
- 12 Hart Crane's depiction of the seamy side of the city in "Brooklyn Bridge".
- 13 Discrimination against African Americans in "I Too".
- 14 The symbolic importance of homoeroticism in *Moby Dick*.
- 15 The role played by the fear of abandonment in Willy Loman's life.
- 16 The image of the conductor in Baraka's play.
- 17 *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* as a bildungsroman.
- 18 *The Scarlet Letter* as a commentary on the era of American history it describes.

(6 × 2 = 12 Weightage)

Turn over

III. Write an essay of 450 words each on *four* of the following, choosing one from each section :—

SECTION A

- 19 Emily Dickinson's style.
- 20 The obsession with death in the poems of Plath and Dickinson.
- 21 A critique of "For the Union Dead".

SECTION B

- 22 Thoreau's scepticism about politics.
- 23 The depiction of insanity in *Moby Dick*.
- 24 The character of Caddy in *The Sound and the Fury*.

SECTION C

- 25 The rise and fall of Brutus Jones.
- 26 The duelling personalities of Blanche and Stanley in *A Streetcar Named Desire*.
- 27 Amiri Baraka's use of metaphor, imagery, and irony to portray society as a machine.

SECTION D

- 28 The evolution of American Drama.
- 29 Depiction of the marginalization of minority groups in American literature.
- 30 Major themes in American poetry.

(4 × 5 = 20 Weightage)