

2017

ENGLISH

Paper : 0205 (Option - C)

AMERICAN LITERATURE

Full Marks: 80

Time: 3 hours

The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions

(SECTION-A)

1. Answer any three of the following questions: 12x3=36
- (a) Examine the Gothic context in Edgar Allan Poe's *The Fall of the House of Usher*. Do you find a distinctly American Gothic divorced from the European Gothic in Poe's works? Illustrate. (8+4)
- (b) Critically analyse how the Puritan obsession with sin turns into a psychological disease in *The Scarlet Letter*.
- (c) "In the right state, he is Man Thinking. In the degenerate state... he tends to become a mere thinker." Comment.
- (d) "Anything dead coming to life hurts" Analyse how 'remembering' becomes both resurrection and pain in *Beloved*.
- (e) Examine how Walt Whitman's statement "I celebrate myself...", in the opening lines of *Leaves of Grass*, becomes a celebration of not only the individual self, but that of all other selves.

2. Write short notes on any four of the following: 5x4=20

- (a) The theme of incest in Poe's works
- (b) Narrative technique in *Beloved*
- (c) Accumulations of significances in the 'spear of grass' in *Song of Myself*
- (d) Dickinson's use of imagery
- (e) Plath's use of the Holocaust imagery in 'Daddy'
- (f) The arid academic world of the 20th Century in 'Who's afraid of Virginia Woolf?'

3. Discuss any three of the following with reference to the context

8x3=24

- (a) Not God but a swastika

So black no sky could squeak through.

Every woman adores a Fascist,

The boot in the face, the brute

Brute heart of a brute like you.

- (b) Dying

Is an art, like everything else.

I do it exceptionally well.

- (c) I felt a Funeral in my Brain,

..... till it seemed

That Sense was breaking through

(d) HONEY: I peel labels.

GEORGE: We all peel labels, sweetie.... When you get down to the bone...inside the bone...the marrow...and that's what you gotta get at.

(e) "I,I,I took the blows in my face and my body!All of those deaths!...Funerals are quiet, but deaths-not always."
