

2018

ENGLISH

ENG: 205 (OPTION-C)

AMERICAN LITERATURE

Full Marks: 80

Time: 3 Hours

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions.*

1. Answer any three of the following questions: 12x3=36
- a. Analyse 'The American Scholar' as a manifesto of the Literary Independence of America.
  - b. Critically discuss how, in Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*, the letter 'A' transforms from the badge of shame to a badge of pride and artistic creativity.
  - c. Critically examine 'The Raven' as a "rhythmical creation of beauty"
  - d. Examine Walt Whitman as a uniquely American poet. Elaborate how he has revolutionized poetry through his experiments with language and subject of poetry.
  - e. In Walden Thoreau has been able to initiate the American exploration of the 'inner self'. Critically discuss.
  - f. "Disremembered and unaccounted for, she cannot be lost because no one is looking for her..." Discuss in detail how Toni Morrison, in *Beloved*, 'resurrects' the denied, the rejected and the erased 'Sixty Million and more' through 'rememory' of the 'unspeakable' African American experience.
2. Write short notes on any four of the following: 5x4=20
- (a) Madeline in 'The Fall of the House of Usher'
  - (b) Body vs soul in Walt Whitman's 'I sing the Body Electric'
  - (c) The water symbolism in *Beloved*

- (d) The significance of Honey's peeling the labels in "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf"
- (e) Stanley Kowalski as the anti-hero in "A Streetcar Named Desire"
- (f) Signthe wild rosebush in *The Scarlet Letter*

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

**8x3=24**

- a. The second time I meant  
To last it out and not come back at all.  
I rocked shut.
  
- b. I heard a Fly buzz- when I died-  
The stillness in the Room  
Was like the Stillness in the Air-  
Between the Heaves of Storm-
  
- c. Houses and rooms are full of perfumes, the shelves are crowded with  
perfumes,  
I breathe the fragrance myself and know it and like it,  
The distillation would intoxicate me also, but I shall not let it.
  
- d. Millions upon millions of them...millions of tiny little slicing operations  
that will leave just the smallest scar, on the underside of the scrotum  
but which will assure the sterility of the imperfect...the ugly, the  
stupid...the...unfit.
  
- e. Whoever you are- I have always depended on the kindness of  
strangers.

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