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Reg. No. :

Name :

Third Semester M.A. Degree Examination, February 2024

English Language and Literature

Elective Course : Paper XI

EL 533.4 : AMERICAN LITERATURE

(2022 Admission)

Time : 3 Hours

Max. Marks : 75

1. Answer any five of the following in about 50 words.
1. Discuss Harlem Renaissance as an intellectual movement.
2. Write a note on the treatment of illusions and reality in *The Glass Menagerie*.
3. Comment on Historical novels.
4. Discuss the imagination vs. the real world in "Birches".
5. Explain the American Dream.
6. Write a brief note on Confessional poetry.
7. What aspect of expressionism and realism are reflected in Eugene O'Neill's *Emperor Jones*?
8. Comment on the significance of the title *The Bluest Eye*.

(5 × 2 = 10 Marks)

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12. Answer any five of the following questions in about 100 words.
9. Comment on the theme of nationalism in Amiri Baraka's essay "Black is a Country".
 10. Explain the impact of Puritanism on American Literature.
 11. Give a brief note on the themes of equality, racism and discrimination in Maya Angelou's "Equality".
 12. Discuss Emerson's views on individuality.
 13. What does the poem "Daughter" by Gertrude Stein discuss?
 14. Describe the elements of racism in Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*.
 15. Explain the religious symbolism in *The Old Man and the Sea*.
 16. Comment on the significance of fire escape in *The Glass Menagerie*.

(5 × 5 = 25 Marks)

- III. Answer any two of the following questions in about 300 words choosing one from each group.


Group A

17. Evaluate Amiri Baraka's essay as a Black manifesto for self-determination.
18. Discuss Walt Whitman's "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking" as a poem about the birth of the poet and the death of the self.
19. Discuss racism as an obstacle to individual identity in Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*.

Group B

20. Explain how society affects what people value in Emerson's essay.
21. What significance does Willy's fear of abandonment have in his life in Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*?
22. Examine death as a mystic experience in the poetry of Emily Dickinson.

(2 × 15 = 30 Marks)

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IV. Critically analyse and answer **any one** of the following questions in about 150 words.

23. "A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds, adored by little statesmen and philosophers and divines. With consistency a great soul has simply nothing to do. He may as well concern himself with his shadow on the wall. Speak what you think now in hard words, and to-morrow speak what to-morrow thinks in hard words again, though it contradict every thing you said to-day. – 'Ah, so you shall be sure to be misunderstood.' – Is it so bad, then, to be misunderstood? Pythagoras was misunderstood, and Socrates, and Jesus, and Luther, and Copernicus, and Galileo, and Newton, and every pure and wise spirit that ever took flesh. To be great is to be misunderstood." Comment critically.
24. Present the main arguments in the given passage in not more than two sentences and attempt a one-page critical note on the passage.

The idea of the "all black society" within the superstructure of an all white society is useless as well (even if it were possible). We are Americans, which is our strength as well as our desperation. The struggle is for *independence*, not separation-or assimilation for that matter. Do what you want to with your life ... when you can. I want to be independent of black men just as much as I want independence from the white. It is just that achieving the latter involves all black men, or at least those who have not already taken those available roads into the mainstream I mentioned earlier- subservience, cowardice, and loss of manhood.

25. Discuss the themes of invisibility and self-realization with the following passage as a point of reference:

So I took to the cellar; I hibernated. I got away from it all. But that wasn't enough. I couldn't be still even in hibernation. Because, damn it, there's the mind, the mind. It wouldn't let me rest. Gin, jazz and dreams were not enough. Books were not enough. My belated appreciation of the crude joke that had kept me running, was not enough.

(1 × 10 = 10 Marks)

