

B.A. 4TH SEMESTER (HONOURS) EXAMINATION, 2021

ENGLISH

Course ID: 40311

Course Code: AH/ENG/401/C-8

(American Literature)

Time: 2 Hours

Full Marks: 40

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.

Unit – I

Answer the following questions:

1. (a) Consider critically how memory, desire and the American Dream commingle in Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*. 10

Or

(b) Analyze the theme of slavery in Toni Morrison's *Beloved*.

2. (a) Would you consider Fitzgerald's "The Crack-up" as an autobiographical essay? Answer with illustrative references from the text. 10

Or

(b) Walt Whitman's poem "Passage to India" talks of an inner as well as an outer exploration. – Discuss.

3. (a) Write an essay on how the idea of the American Dream evolved through the twentieth century. 10

Or

(b) Analyse some of the characteristics of social realism as reflected in American fiction. Substantiate your answer with suitable examples from American novels.

Unit – II

4. Answer *any five* of the following questions:

5x2=10

- (a) What is the significance of the fire escape in *The Glass Menagerie*?
- (b) What information do we get about Amanda's husband, Mr. Wingfield, from the play?
- (c) Why does Laura give the unicorn to Jim?
- (d) Why did Sethe kill her baby daughter?
- (e) Name the male slaves who worked in 'Sweet Home'. Who, among them, was chosen by Sethe as her husband?
- (f) What are the three engineering achievements that Walt Whitman praises in his poem "Passage to India"?
- (g) 'May be you already got him out of town, you damn niggerlover' – who is called 'niggerlover' and why?
- (h) How is the 'cashier in the bank' described in Faulkner's "Dry September"?
- (i) Who is 'My Captain' and what is 'our fearful trip'?
- (j) '...all life is a process of breaking down, but the blows.... don't show their effect all at once' – What are the two types of 'blows' that Fitzgerald talks about in the opening section of "The Crack-up"?

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