

QP CODE

H1051

Enrollment Number:

Name:

BA DEGREE EXAMINATIONS, FEBRUARY 2026

Fifth Semester

B.A. English Language and Literature

B21EG04DE – American Literature

(2022 admissions)

(Supplementary/Improvement)

Time: 3 Hours

Max Marks: 70

Section A

Answer any ten of the following questions in a word or sentence each. Each question carries 1 mark.

1. Name the first newspaper of America.
2. What does Dee ask to be called when she returns home in the story "Everyday Use"?
3. Who is the protagonist of the play *The Emperor Jones*?
4. Which play by Thornton Wilder, experimented with Chinese theatrical conventions?
5. Who adopts Huck to "civilize" him?
6. Which journal became the voice of the Transcendental movement?
7. What is the symbolic significance of the tom-tom in the play *The Emperor Jones*?
8. What is elliptical poetry?
9. Who is Huckleberry Finn's best friend in the novel *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*?
10. Which movement is referred to as the intellectual rebirth of African American culture?
11. To which mythological figure does Thoreau compare the red ant's rescuer?
12. What word does the raven repeatedly say?
13. Who is the author of the story *The Open Boat*?
14. When did the first theatre open on Broadway?
15. Which Puritan poet wrote *The Tenth Muse Lately Sprung up in America*?

(1X10=10)

Section B

Answer any five of the following questions in two or three sentences each. Each question carries 2 marks.

16. What is the significance of the refrain "The only emperor is the emperor of ice-cream" in Wallace Stevens' poem?

17. How does the student react when the raven enters his chamber?
18. How did Thoreau describe the seriousness of the ant battle?
19. What was the impact of the Great Depression on American society and literature?
20. How does Maggie respond when Dee asks for the quilts?
21. What does the word “defunct” signify in the poem “Buffalo Bill”?
22. What is the significance of the silver bullet in the play *The Emperor Jones*?
23. Why do the men feel both hope and despair upon seeing the lighthouse in the story “The Open Boat”?
24. Why does Huck fake his death in *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*?
25. What impact has multiculturalism on American literature?

(2X5=10)

Section C

Answer any six of the following questions in one page each. Each question carries 5 marks.

26. Discuss the impact of Transcendentalism on American literature and intellectual thought, citing specific contributions of Emerson.
27. How does Alice Walker use the characters in “Everyday Use” to explore different expressions of identity?
28. How does the tone of melancholy in “The Raven” contribute to its overall impact?
29. Trace the psychological journey of Brutus Jones in the play *The Emperor Jones*.
30. How does Thoreau use the ant battle to reflect on human warfare?
31. Discuss how does Langston Hughes address racial injustice in “Harlem.”
32. Analyze the role of disguise and deception in *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.
33. Examine the symbolic significance of the boat in the story “The Open Boat”.
34. Explain the significance of the Harlem Renaissance in shaping African-American cultural identity. Mention key historical factors and notable figures associated with the movement.
35. In what ways does Wallace Stevens highlight the contrast between life and death in “The Emperor of Ice-Cream”?
36. Discuss the development of Broadway musicals and their influence on American theatre in the 20th century.
37. Discuss the themes of heroism, death, and irony in E.E. Cummings’ *Buffalo Bill’s*.

(5X6=30)

Section D

Answer any two of the following questions in three pages each. Each question carries 10 marks.

38. Analyze Edgar Allan Poe’s contributions to Gothic literature concerning his poems and short stories, with special reference to “The Raven”.

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39. Examine the themes of freedom and societal norms in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, focusing on Huck's moral development and his relationship with Jim.
40. Examine the theme of heritage in Alice Walker's "Everyday Use." How do the characters Dee, Maggie, and Mama represent different understandings of cultural identity and heritage.
41. Analyze the influence of Puritanism and Enlightenment thought on early American literature, emphasizing their contrasting impacts on literary themes and styles.

(10X2=20)