

QP CODE

Enrollment Number:

A3041

Name:

M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATIONS, DECEMBER 2024

Second Semester

M.A. English Language and Literature

M21EG07DC – American Literature

(2023 July admissions)

Time: 3 Hours

Max Marks: 70

Section A

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

1. Explain 'American Dream'.
2. What do you mean by "the lost generation" of America?
3. What can we find unique about William Carlos Williams's poetry?
4. Name the first American comedy to be performed. Who was the author of it and how was it performed?
5. Distinguish between Historical Writing and Utilitarian writings.
6. Examine *Sexual Politics* (1970), as an important document of the second wave of feminism.
7. Explore the central theme of the poem *Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking* by Walt Whitman.
8. Examine the significance of the title of the play *Long Day's Journey into Night* by Eugene O'Neill.

(2X5=10)

Section B

Answer any Six of the following questions in a paragraph each. Each question carries 5 marks.

9. Prepare a note on Confessional poetry.
10. Comment on the symbolism in William Carlos Williams's poem "The Red Wheel-barrow".
11. What is the significance of the three epigraphs used at the beginning of the essay "Self-Reliance"?

12. In her “Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and Literary Imagination,” Toni Morrison explores the signs and representations of “blackness” in American literature. Justify.
13. Discuss the characterisation of Hester Prynne in the novel *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne.
14. How does Edgar Allan Poe use symbolism in “The Cask of Amontillado” to enhance the story’s themes and atmosphere?
15. How do critics explore the essence of human experience and complexities of Humanity in the poem “Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking” by Walt Whitman?
16. Examine how Langston Hughes’s “The Negro Speaks of Rivers” is a powerful chronicling of African American experience.
17. Evaluate Katherine Murray Millett as an American feminist writer.
18. Provide a detailed account of “Experimental fiction”.

(5X6=30)

Section C

Answer any two of the following questions in four pages each. Each question carries 15 marks.

19. Elaborate on the major themes explored in Nathaniel Hawthorne’s novel *The Scarlet Letter*.
20. Discuss the major themes explored in Emerson’s essay “Self-Reliance”.
21. Write a critical essay on The Modern American Theatre.
22. Analyse the prominent Transcendental Poets and their main works.

(15X2=30)