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SECOND SEMESTER M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION AUGUST 2013

(CUCSS)

English

EN 2E 07 - AMERICAN LITERATURE

(2012 Admissions)

Time: Three Hours

Maximum: 36 Weightage

- I. Answer all the following questions in a word, phrase or sentence:
 - 1. What is the misunderstanding between the husband and wife in "Home Burial"?
 - 2. What does "Wobblies" mean, in the poem "America"?
 - 3. How does "Buffalo Bill" open?
 - 4. Why is Thoreau impatient with politicians?

 $(4 \times \frac{1}{2} = 2 \text{ weightage})$

- 5. Name three terms that were abusive references to African Americans.
- 6. What frightens Ishmael the most about Moby Dick?
- 7. What type of music was playing when Blanche's young husband committed suicide?
- 8. What does Happy order from Stanley at the restaurant in Death of a Salesman?

 $(4 \times \frac{1}{2} = 2 \text{ weightage})$

- II. Write a paragraph of about 150 words, on any six of the following:
 - 9. Use of mythology and folklore in "The Raven".
 - 10. The depiction of everyday life in "Home Burial".
 - 11. Autobiographical elements in "Lady Lazarus".
 - 12. The frenzy of motion in the poem "Brooklyn Bridge".
 - 13. "I, Too" as a shout for equality and freedom.
 - 14. Biblical references in Moby Dick.
 - 15. Fun and humor in The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.
 - 16. The function of the physical setting in The Scarlet Letter.

- 17. Willy Loman's desperate quest for the American Dream.
- 18. The character of Lula in Dutchman.

 $(6 \times 2 = 12 \text{ weightage})$

III. Write an essay of about 450 words, on any four of the following, choosing one from each section:

Section A

- 19. The depiction of America's political scenario in the poem "For the Union Dead".
- 20. A critique of "Buffalo Bill".
- 21. The role that Nature plays in the poems for study.

Section B

- 22. The major issues pertinent to America that are debated in "Civil Disobedience".
- 23. The play-like scenes interspersed throughout Moby Dick.
- 24. The significant themes of The Sound and the Fury.

Section C

- 25. The Emperor Jones as an expressionist quest play probing the racial roots of the protagonist.
- 26. A Streetcar Named Desire as an elegy for an Old South that died in the first part of the twentieth century.
- 27. The significance of the title of Baraka's play.

Section D

- 28. Depiction of racism in American literature.
- 29. The role of the Frontier in American writings.
- 30. The portrayal of middle class life in American fiction.

 $(4 \times 5 = 20 \text{ weightage})$