

**SECOND SEMESTER M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, JUNE 2015**

(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 Which is the larger conflict that threatens to destroy the couple's marriage in "Home Burial"?
- 2 How does Ginsberg relate his poem to music?
- 3 Why did Robert Lowell write "For the Union Dead"?
- 4 What does Thoreau use as a metaphor for government?

(4 × ½ = 2 weightage)

- 5 What is the basic meaning and the derived meaning of "Tar Baby"?
- 6 Which character in *Moby Dick* falls overboard and goes insane as a result?
- 7 What poet does Williams quote in the epigraph to *A Streetcar Named Desire*?
- 8 What is the name of the restaurant where Happy and Biff take Willy?

(4 × ½ = 2 weightage)

II. Answer any *six* of the following questions in a paragraph of 150 words each :-

- 9 Supernatural elements in "The Raven".
- 10 Isolation of the individual in "Home Burial".
- 11 The image of the Phoenix in "Lady Lazarus".
- 12 "Brooklyn Bridge" as a series of snapshots of New York City.
- 13 The demonstration of the strength of a black slave in "I Too"
- 14 The digressions in Ishmael's narratives.
- 15 The hypocrisy of "civilized" society in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.
- 16 Use of symbols in *The Scarlet Letter*.
- 17 Willy Loman's retreat into the past as a form of escapism from unpleasant realities.
- 18 The significance of the title of Baraka's play kutais *Dutchman*.

(6 × 2 = 12 weightage)

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

**Section A**

- 19 Depiction of racial tensions in the poem "I Too".
- 20 American Confessional poets for study.
- 21 A critique of "Home Burial".

**Section B**

- 22 Thoreau's conception of civil disobedience.
- 23 The major themes in *Moby Dick*.
- 24 The three major narrators in *The Sound and the Fury*.

**Section C**

- 25 The psychological underpinnings of *The Emperor Jones*.
- 26 The use of sound and light in *A Streetcar named Desire*.
- 27 The development of the action in *Dutchman*.

**Section D**

- 28 The salient features of American Romanticism.
- 29 The depiction of the marginalization of African Americans in American literature.
- 30 The evolution of American Prose Fiction.

(4 x 5 = 20 Weightage)