

B.A. 3rd Semester (Honours) Examination, 2019 (CBCS)

Subject : English

Paper : CC-V

(American Literature)

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 60

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

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

1. Answer *any ten* of the following questions: 2×10=20
- (a) What is the main conflict found in “The Purloined Letter”?
 - (b) How is Monsieur G—, the Prefect, depicted?
 - (c) Comment on the identity of the narrator in “The Purloined Letter”.
 - (d) Point out any one way in which “The Crack-Up” connects to the author’s personal life.
 - (e) Comment briefly on the tone of “The Crack-Up”.
 - (f) Who is Will Mayes in “Dry September”?
 - (g) What does Mchendon hate and why?
 - (h) Does the speaker in “The Prologue” try to strike a balance between pride and humility?
 - (i) What does Anne Bradstreet mean by ‘prologue’ in ‘The Prologue’?
 - (j) ‘If e’er you deign these lowly lines your eyes,
Give Thyme or Parsley wreath, I ask no Bays.
This mean and unrefined ore of mine
Will make your glist’ring gold but more to shine’. — Comment on the significance of the lines.
 - (k) What does the crow in the “Crow Testament” represent?
 - (l) What is ‘Pale horse’ symbolic of?
 - (m) What does ‘Passage to India’ celebrate?
 - (n) ‘The New by its mighty railroad spann’d
The seas inlaid with eloquent gentle wires’— Which human achievements are referred to here?
 - (o) ‘Finally shall come the poet worthy that name
The true son of God shall come singing his songs.’— comment on the significance of the lines.

2. Answer *any four* of the following questions: 5×4=20

- (a) How is “Dry September” a devastating critique of the south?
- (b) Is “The Purloined Letter” a successful detective story? Justify.
- (c) ‘Sometimes, though, the cracked plate has to be retained in the pantry, has to be kept in service as a household necessity. It can never again be warmed on the stove nor shuffled with the other plates in the dishpan;’— Why does Fitzgerald say so?
- (d) How does Anne Bradstreet criticize the male society in “The Prologue”?
- (e) ‘Lo, soul! Seest thou not God’s purpose from the first?’— How does Walt Whitman sing of the divine plan of God through these lines?
- (f) ‘So, one by one, he returns them but gets only five cents a bottle’— Explain the above line.

3. Answer *any two* of the following questions: 10×2=20

- (a) (i) Discuss Mark Twain’s use of superstition throughout the novel and show how these superstitions affect the various actions.

Or,

- (ii) Compare the characters of Injun Joe and Muff Potter.

- (b) (i) Analyse the role of imagination in “The Purloined Letter”.

Or,

- (ii) Discuss the theme of racism in “Dry September”.

- (c) (i) Discuss the significance of the title “Passage to India”.

Or,

- (ii) Write a note on the use of symbols in “The Prologue.”

- (d) (i) How does the social situation of the world at the time of the play’s setting affect the characters of *The Glass Menagerie*?

Or,

- (ii) What are the different dramatic techniques used in *The Glass Menagerie*?
