

POST-GRADUATE COURSE
Term End Examination — June, 2017

ENGLISH

Paper-VI : American Literature

Time : 4 Hours

Full Marks : 100

Weightage of Marks : 80%

Special credit will be given for accuracy and relevance in the answer. Marks will be deducted for incorrect spelling, untidy work and illegible handwriting. The weightage for each question has been indicated in the margin.

SECTION – A

Answer any *two* of the following : $20 \times 2 = 40$

1. Critically discuss the poetry of the Puritan Period of American history.
2. Comment on the structure and style of Dickinson's poem 'Because I could not stop for Death'.
3. Analyse O'Neill's trilogy *Mourning Becomes Electra* as a tragedy of death and mourning.
4. Write a brief essay Faulkner's understanding of race relations as reflected in *The Sound and the Fury*.

SECTION – B

Answer any *three* of the following questions :

$14 \times 3 = 42$

5. Discuss the chief characteristics of the prose of the Enlightenment period.
6. Bring out, with reference to 'Walden' the basic premises of Thoreau's thought.
7. Critically comment on the characterization of either Captain Ahab or Ishmael in *Moby Dick*.
8. Discuss *Death of a Salesman* as a critique of the American Dream.
9. Comment on Whitman's understanding of the 'Self' in 'Song of Myself'.
10. Critically assess the emerging persona of the narrator of Frost's poem 'Mending Wall'.

SECTION – C

Answer any *two* of the following questions :

$9 \times 2 = 18$

11. Comment on the significance of baseball references in *The Old Man and the Sea*.
12. Examine the ending of the short story 'Good Country People' from the points of view of irony and effectiveness.

13. Write a short note on any *one* of the following :

- i) Cotton Mather
- ii) Chicken Little.

14. Explain the meaning of the following lines :

"..... who drove cross-country at seventy-two hours to find out if I had a vision or you had a vision or he had a vision to find out Eternity."
