

POST-GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMME

Term End Examination —December, 2024

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 × 2 = 40

1. Analyse Herman Melville's *Moby Dick* as a pioneering 'modern' *American* novel.
2. Trace the trajectory of transformation from Puritan values to Enlightenment ethos as reflected in the major 18th century writers in America.
3. What is Transcendentalism ? Write a critical essay on Henry David Thoreau as a Transcendentalist author.
4. Critically analyse how Greek myth and classical Greek drama structure the plot and characterization of Eugene O' Neill's *Mourning Becomes Electra*.

SECTION – B

Answer any *three* of the following :

14 × 3 = 42

5. Who were the major historical writers of New England ? Write a critical note on the contributions of William Bradford and John Winthrop in this respect.
6. Explain how Walt Whitman's "Passage to India" emphasises technological progress as well as geo-cultural and spiritual linkages.

7. Critically comment on how Ralph Waldo Emerson formulates the role of poets and the function of poetry.
8. "Ernest Hemingway's *Old Man and the Sea* is an allegory, a fable, a Christian parable." — Elucidate.
9. Analyse William Faulkner's use of 'interior monologue' and 'stream of consciousness technique' in *The Sound and The Fury*.
10. "Family bonds are explored minutely in Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*". Explain.

SECTION – C

Answer any *two* of the following:

9 × 2 = 18

11. Comment on Emily Dickinson's use of 'flowers' as a trope in her poem "Flowers".
12. Analyse Wallace Stevens' use of imagery in his poem "The Emperor of Ice Cream."
13. Write a short note on any *one* of the following :
 - (i) "I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed by madness" (Allen Ginsberg, "Howl")
 - (ii) Significance of the Bible in Flannery O'Connor's "Good Country People"
 - (iii) Female bonding in Toni Morrison's *Sula*.
14. Consider O' Henry's "The Cop and the Anthem" as a short story. Comment on the use of irony in the narrative.