

B.A. 3rd Semester (Honours) Examination, 2018 (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) Who is C. Auguste Dupin in “The Purloined Letter”?
 - (b) Why does Dupin replace the real letter with a facsimile?
 - (c) What are the Prefect’s strengths and weaknesses as a detective in “The Purloined Letter”?
 - (d) “... all life is a process of breaking down, but the blows...”
— What are the two types of ‘blows’ that Fitzgerald talks about in the opening section of “The Crack-up”?
 - (e) “Not long before, I had sat in the office of a great doctor and listened to a grave sentence”
— What was the ‘grave sentence’ about, and how did Fitzgerald react to it?
 - (f) Mention two images of horror and violence found in the opening paragraph of Faulkner’s “Dry September”.
 - (g) How is Miss Minnie Cooper presented in “Dry September”?
 - (h) “Find out the truth first”
— What was the ‘truth’ that the speaker wants to be found out?
 - (i) “Passage, O Soul, to India!
Eclaircise the myths Asiatic, The primitive Fables.”
— Comment on the above lines.
 - (j) “The earth to be spann’d, connected by net-work.”
— Comment on the poet’s idea of inclusiveness in the poem “Passage to India”.
 - (k) “When Crows fight crows
The sky fills with beaks and talons”
— Comment on the significance of the lines.
 - (l) “The white man, disguised
as a falcon...”
— What does the falcon do?
 - (m) “My obscure lines shall not so dim their worth”
— Why does the poet call her lines ‘obscure’?

- (n) "For my mean Pen are too superior things"
— What are 'too superior things' for her to write?
- (o) "A weak or wounded brain admits no cure"
— Why is the brain wounded?

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

- (a) What is the allusion in the last few lines of "The Purloined Letter"?
- (b) What is the 'White Goddess Concept' as implied in William Faulkner's "Dry September"?
- (c) '... the test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposed ideas in the mind at the same time, and still retain the ability to function'
— Elucidate with reference to "The Crack-up".
- (d) 'The past – the infinite greatness of the past:
For what is the present, after all but a growth out of the past?'
— What is suggested by the above lines in "Passage to India"?
- (e) 'Among the ashes of Jericho, crow sacrifices his first born son'
— Critically comment on the sacrifice of the crow.
- (f) 'Let Greeks be Greeks, and women what they are'
— Explain the above line.

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

- (a) (i) How does Mark Twain balance innocence and evil in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*?
Or,
(ii) Give a character sketch of Tom Sawyer.
- (b) (i) In "The Crack-up", F. Scott Fitzgerald gives insights into his personal journey through a mental crisis or 'crack-up'. — Elucidate.
Or,
(ii) Justify the title "Dry September" in the context of the story.
- (c) (i) Discuss how the poet uses allusion and symbol in 'Crow Testament'.
Or,
(ii) How does "The Prologue" exemplify Bradstreet's position of humility?
- (d) (i) Discuss *The Glass Menagerie* as a 'memory' play.
Or,
(ii) Discuss the use of symbols in *The Glass Menagerie*.