

8. (a) What is the definition of a 'good scholar,' and what are the duties and responsibilities of the American Scholar according to Emerson.

Or

- (b) Loneliness and Death are inseparable facets of human existence – Discuss.
9. (a) Consider the use of anecdote in the play *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. What is the thematic significance of the stories Maggie tells to Brick in the opening Act?

Or

- (b) Discuss the trope of emasculation in *The American Dream*. How does Mommy emasculate Daddy? How does the play portray Mommy?
10. (a) Describe symbolism in *The Optimist's Daughter* by Eudora Welty.

Or

- (b) Discuss the character of Jack Burden in *All the King's Men*. How does he develop throughout the novel? Is Jack aware of his own development?

S.No. 488

12PEN08

(For the candidates admitted from 2012-2013 onwards)

M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2017.

Third Semester

English

AMERICAN LITERATURE

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 75 marks

PART A — (3 × 5 = 15 marks)

Annotate the following by choosing either (a) or (b).

1. (a) Whether Tempter sent, or whether tempest
tossed thee here ashore, Desolate yet all
undaunted, on this desert land enchanted —
On this home by Horror haunted—tell me
truly, I implore —

Or

- (b) Success is counted sweetest
By those who ne'er succeed.
To comprehend a nectar
Requires sorest need.

2. (a) "Action is with the scholar subordinate, but it is essential. Without it, he is not yet man. Without it, thought can never ripen into truth."

Or

- (b) "Not so, brothers and friends, —please God, ours shall not be so. We will walk on our own feet; we will work with our own hands; we will speak our own minds."
3. (a) "I'm honest! Give me credit for just that, will you *please*?"

Or

- (b) Maybe it's being alive that makes them lie, and being almost not alive makes me sort of accidentally truthful—I don't know but—anyway—we've been friends...

PART B — (2 × 5 = 10 marks)

Answer the following in about 200 words.

4. (a) How does the speaker create a sense of unity throughout the poem *When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd*? How does it contribute to our understanding of death in the poem?

Or

- (b) Is *The Raven* just a tale of a talking bird? What deeper themes does it signify?

5. (a) How does Thomas Wolfe present Ernest Rackman who turns towards violence to escape thoughts of loneliness and Suicide in *God's Lonely Man*?

Or

- (b) What is the central significance of Grandma's exit from the action at the end of the play *The American Dream*?

PART C — (5 × 10 = 50 marks)

Answer the following in about 500 words.

6. (a) How would you describe the atmosphere and its effect of Poe's *The Raven*? Which images in the beginning of the poem create this atmosphere?

Or

- (b) Discuss the theme of the poem *Knows how to forget* by Emily Dickinson.

7. (a) How does *When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd* use free verse, and how it helps mimicing a controlled ritual of grief through out?

Or

- (b) Critically comment on the poem *Success is counted Sweetest*.