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G – 4401

Reg. No. : .....

Name : .....

Second Semester M.A. Degree Examination, July 2019

English Language and Literature

EL 223 : Paper VII — AMERICAN LITERATURE

(2017 Admission onwards)

Time : 3 Hours

Max. Marks : 75

I. Answer any five of the following in not more than 50 words.

1. Longfellow's theory of didacticism in his poem "A Psalm of Life."
2. Describe the notion of freedom as presented in Jorie Graham's poem "Prayer."
3. How does Gertrude Stein's poem "Daughter" criticize the way in which art is treated in America?
4. Significance of the title *The Glass Menagerie*.
5. Why does Emerson criticise society in his essay "Self Reliance?"
6. What is the significance of the Letter A in *The Scarlet Letter*?
7. Elements of absurdity in *Catch 22*.
8. What do you think is the worst form of violence in the story "The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber?"

(5 × 2 = 10 Marks)

P.T.O.



- II. Comment critically on **any two** of the following in not more than **150** words choosing **one** from **each** section.

SECTION – A

9. May no fate willfully misunderstand me  
And half grant what I wish and snatch me away  
Not to return.
10. Double Estate—entailed at pleasure  
Upon an unsuspecting Heir—  
Duke in a moment of Deathlessness  
And God, for a Frontier.

SECTION – B

11. "We are such things as rubbish is made of, so let's drink up and forget it."  
12. "I like the silent church before the service begins, better than any preaching."  
(2 × 5 = 10 Marks)

- III. Answer **any two** of the following in not more than **150** words

13. The American Dream.  
14. Problem of identity in the poem "Self Portrait in a Convex Mirror."  
15. Irony and satire in the story "Blue Hotel."  
16. Henry James' views of artistic freedom.

(2 × 5 = 10 Marks)

- IV. Answer **any three** in not more than **450** words choosing **one** from **each** section.

SECTION – A

17. Write an essay on the conflicting elements Wallace Stevens presents in his poem "Sunday Morning."  
18. Consider Sam Shepard's play *Buried Child* as the vision of a troublesome family being transformed into a symbol of America's loss of innocence.  
19. Maya Angelou's poem, "Phenomenal Woman," is about a woman "who fights against society's stereotypical and formulaic idea of what the quintessential woman should look and act like by being unapologetically herself." Elucidate.



SECTION – B

20. Write an essay on Emily Dickinson's mystical perspective on death by evaluating the prescribed poems.
21. Tony Morrison's presentation of 'middle-class blacks' in *The Bluest Eye*.
22. "Viewing motherhood as an experience, rather than an institution, dislocates maternity from patriarchal, institutionalized conceptualizations, which have used maternity as justification for gender inequalities within the family and within the political sphere." How does Adrienne Rich's essay "The Domestication of Motherhood" justify this statement?

SECTION – C

23. Attempt an essay on the growth of 20<sup>th</sup> century American theatre.
24. Salient features of American Transcendentalism.
25. Religious symbolism in the play *Glass Menagerie*.

(3 × 15 = 45 Marks)

