

MA (Final) ENGLISH PROGRAMME

MAEG – 10

American Literature

Time: 3 hrs.

Max. Marks: 80

1. The Theory paper is having the maximum marks of 80, examinees will be given 3 Hours time to answer.
2. The Question paper will be divided into three sections A, B, and C.
3. Section 'A' will contain eight (08) Very Short Answer Type Questions (one word, one sentence, and definitional type item) having weightage of 16 (sixteen) marks. Examinees will have to attempt all questions. Each question will be of 2 (two) marks and maximum word limit will be thirty to fifty words.
4. **Section 'B' will contain Eight Short Answer Type Questions.** Examinees will have to **answer any four (04) questions.** Each question will be of eight (08) marks. The weightage of this section will be of thirty two (32) marks. Examinees have to delimit each answer in maximum 100 words.
5. **Section 'C' will contain four Long Answer Type Questions** and each question will also have internal alternative option. Each question will be of sixteen (16) marks. Examinees will have to **answer any two questions.** The weightage of this section will be of thirty two (32) marks. They have to delimit each answer in maximum 800 words.

SECTION A

Answer the following questions in about 30-50 words:

- ❖ Briefly analyze the influence of Lincoln on Whitman's poetry.
- ❖ Write a short note on Emily Dickinson's thematic obsessions.
- ❖ What is a picaresque novel?
- ❖ What is meant by 'the great American Dream'?
- ❖ How does Huck manage to hoodwink his father?
- ❖ Explain 'Earth is the right place for love'.
- ❖ Briefly state how Emerson conceives of 'the poet-philosopher'.
- ❖ What image of women characters does emerge in the story *Vitamins*.
- ❖ Why is *The Glass Menagerie* called a 'memory play'?
- ❖ What is it that keeps Willy from accepting that his sons are 'utterly incompetent'?
- ❖ How do you understand the varying length of poetic lines in Whitman's oeuvre?
- ❖ Point out any four symbols used by Robert Frost.

- ❖ Briefly comment on Huck's essential humanitarian concerns.
- ❖ Write a short note on Puritanism.
- ❖ In what ways, according to Emerson, does the over-soul make itself perceivable?
- ❖ What phrase sums up the totality of the duties of the American scholar? Explain.
- ❖ What is meant by Transcendentalism?
- ❖ Shed light on the symbolic significance of glass menagerie in the play so titled.
- ❖ What does Dickinson mean by 'Liquor' that is not brewed?
- ❖ Briefly comment on the role of the 'river' in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.
- ❖ Why is *Leaves of Grass* perceived as the national epic of America?
- ❖ Comment on the imagery of the deceased's soul gliding over in a chariot as presented in Emily's poem *Because I Could Not Stop For Death*.
- ❖ Is *Death of a Salesman* an expose of the American idea of 'the individual'? Reason your answer.
- ❖ How are time and soul related in Emerson's essays?
- ❖ For what specific reasons does Emerson praise Wordsworth and Goethe?
- ❖ Critically discuss Whitman's conception of 'I'.
- ❖ Define identity and self in the context of Afro-American literature.
- ❖ What is the first influence on Man Thinking (the Scholar)?
- ❖ Write a short note on the dramatic significance of 'hallucinations' as Brutus suffers.
- ❖ What is the neighbor's stance when he reiterates 'good fences make good neighbors'?

SECTION B

Attempt the following questions in 100 words

- ❖ Assess *Song of Myself* as poetic manifesto of Whitman's literary creed.
- ❖ What face of social injustice does come across in Huck's straddling the life on the raft and life on banks of the river?
- ❖ Critically examine the issue of 'hybrid existence' as it comes up in *The Bluest Eye*.
- ❖ "Emily Dickinson's poetry is a unique blend of romantic and realistic streaks." Critically examine the statement.
- ❖ Are Henry's reasons for deserting the Italian army convincing? Justify your answer.
- ❖ How does Raymond Carver bring out the value of 'small things' in human life?
- ❖ Attempt a character sketch of Hester Prynne.
- ❖ Analyze *A Farewell to Arms* as an artistic rendering of the modern-day hypocrisy of war.
- ❖ Write a note on the role of the baker in the story 'A Small Good Thing'.
- ❖ Compare Ann and Howard in terms of character.
- ❖ Attempt a pen-portrait of Emerson's ideal 'scholar'.
- ❖ Critically examine the 'light and shade' effect of stagecraft first used in *The Glass Menagerie*.
- ❖ Write a note on the symbolic significance of 'lilacs' and the 'thrush'.
- ❖ Discuss Frost as a poet of 'farmers and fields'.
- ❖ Examine the issues of slavery and racial consciousness as pointed up in Hawthorne's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.
- ❖ Discuss the authenticity of the narrator of the story *Vitamins*.

- ❖ Attempt a brief sketch of 'Pearl' as the magnet that pulls Arthur back towards Hester?
- ❖ Evaluate *When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloomed* as an elegy.
- ❖ "Frost is deceptively simple." Examine the statement with illustrations.
- ❖ Critically examine the personal and the systemic causes of Willy Loman's downfall.
- ❖ Examine the significance of 'raft' in the development of the narrative in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.
- ❖ Critically discuss the theme of guilt and revenge as brought out in Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*.
- ❖ Examine *Death of a Salesman* as an artistic rendering of the failure of American Dream.
- ❖ Discuss the technical innovations made by Eugene O'Neill in the American dramaturgy.

Section C

Answer the following in detail (800 words):

- ❖ How far is it justified to call Whitman 'the representative voice of democracy'? Critically discuss.
 - ❖ How do you rate Walt Whitman as an 'innovator' of metrical patterns?
 - ❖ Discuss Pecola's quest for 'bluest eye' as a typical craving of those who are 'neither here nor there'.
 - ❖ What are the parameters laid down by Emerson for the 'scholar' for study of nature?
 - ❖ Bring out the peculiarity in use of dash by Emily Dickinson.
 - ❖ Write an essay discussing Hemingway's use of lowlands and mountains as symbols in *A Farewell to Arms*.
 - ❖ Why is Laura obsessed with her 'supposed inferiority'? How does it influence her 'chances' in life?
 - ❖ How are death and a fly associated in Dickinson's poetry?
 - ❖ Draw a comparative picture of Biff and Happy as two sons of the same failed father.
 - ❖ What is expressionism? Examine *Emperor Jones* as a play in the expressionistic mode.
 - ❖ Discuss the complexities of Emerson's idea about the second influence on Man Thinking?
 - ❖ How far can Robert Frost be justified as a modern poet? Illustrate your answer.
 - ❖ Critically discuss the three 'pillory scenes' in the novel *The Scarlet Letter*.
 - ❖ Discuss Whitman's use of 'leaf' as a symbol of a common man in democracy.
 - ❖ Write a full-fledged note on the thematic strands woven in the novel *The Bluest Eye*.
 - ❖ Write a full-length note on the importance of 'self-trust' as brought out in 'The American Scholar' by Emerson.
 - ❖ Examine *The Scarlet Letter* on psychological and symbolic levels.
- or
- ❖ Assess Hemingway's peculiarly terse style of writing as 'linguistic asceticism' adopted to reflect the refinement of thought and experience.
 - ❖ Succinctly trace the way Morrison points up the 'psychological damage' suffered by the socially oppressed.
 - ❖ How far is it justifiable to call Raymond Carver a 'minimalist' despite all his protest?

- ❖ Examine how Tennessee Williams adds a new dimension to dramaturgy by bringing in the technique of 'temporal swing- now and then'.
- ❖ Draw out the elements of mysticism and sexuality in the poetry of Whitman.
- ❖ What is race? Elaborate on the socio-political significance of 'racial features'.
- ❖ Analytically measure up Willy Loman as a 'tragic hero' in Aristotelian sense.
