

**B.A. 4<sup>th</sup> Semester (Honours) Examination, 2022**

**ENGLISH**

**Course ID: 40311**

**Course Code: AH/ENG/401/C-8**

**American Literature**

**Time: 2 Hours**

**Full Marks: 40**

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks.*

*Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.*

*Answer all the questions.*

**Unit - I**

1. (a) What picture of contemporary American society do you get from *The Glass Menagerie*?

**1x10=10**

Or

- (b) Discuss how memory plays a significant role in Toni Morrison's novel *Beloved*.

2. (a) William Van O'Connor has described Faulkner's 'Dry September' as "a story of wretchedness, the sadism, and the shame of a man who has helped to lynch a Negro". – Do you agree? Answer with suitable illustrations from the text.

**1x10=10**

Or

- (b) Analyze Walt Whitman's 'O Captain! My Captain!' as an elegy.

3. (a) Write an essay on the development of the American novel in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

**1x10=10**

Or

- (b) What does the term "American Dream" mean? Write a note on the origin and early development of this Dream.

Unit - II

4. Answer *any five* of the following questions:

5x2=10

- (a) What does the breaking of the glass animals signify?
- (b) Why did Sethe kill Beloved?
- (c) “Oh Laura, I try to leave you behind me but I’m more faithful than I intended to be!” – What does the speaker mean to say here?
- (d) What does Whitman mean by “tableaus twain” in ‘Passage to India’?
- (e) “He gives you illusion that has the appearance of truth. I give you truth in the pleasant disguise of illusion”. – Comment briefly on the lines.
- (f) “Ah Genoese, thy dream! thy dream!” – Who is “Genoese” here? What dream of Genoese is referred to here?
- (g) When and why did Halle go crazy?
- (h) “Now a man can crack in many ways”. – What are the three “ways” mentioned by Fitzgerald in the context?
- (i) “Then you are a hell of a white man”. – Who says this and to whom? Why does the speaker abuse him thus?
- (j) “Are you going to let the black sons get away with it until one really does it?” – Comment briefly on the speaker’s attitude to the black people.

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