

SHRIMATHI DEVKUNVAR NANALAL BHATT VAISHNAV COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
(AUTONOMOUS)

(Affiliated to the University of Madras and Re-accredited with 'A+' Grade by NAAC)

Chromepet, Chennai - 600 044.

B.A. English - END SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS APRIL - 2024

SEMESTER - V

20UELCT5010 - American Literature

Total Duration : 2 Hrs. 30 Mins.

Total Marks : 60

Section B

Answer any **SIX** questions ($6 \times 5 = 30$ Marks)

1. Explain the central theme of Robert Frost's poem "Mending Wall" and discuss how the speaker's interactions with his neighbour contribute to the overall meaning of the poem.
2. In Sylvia Plath's poem "Tulips," the speaker uses the imagery of tulips to convey complex emotions. Analyze how the poet employs symbolism and metaphor to explore the themes of identity and the desire for solitude.
3. Henry David Thoreau, in "Where I Lived and What I Lived For," reflects on the significance of simplicity and nature in one's life. Evaluate Thoreau's argument regarding the benefits of a simple lifestyle and a connection with nature.
4. Analyze Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Speech, paying particular attention to the tone, rhetorical devices, and the key message he conveys to the nation during a tumultuous time. Discuss the significance of his words in the context of the Civil War and the challenges facing the United States.
5. Explain the central plot and themes in Ambrose Bierce's short story "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge." Discuss how the author uses narrative techniques to create suspense and surprise in the story.
6. Evaluate how the symbolism of the black veil contributes to the overall meaning of the story. Discuss the impact of Reverend Hooper's decision to wear the veil on himself and the community.
7. In Eugene O'Neill's "The Emperor Jones," the protagonist, Brutus Jones, undergoes a psychological and physical journey. Analyze the character development of Jones throughout the play, considering the impact of his past actions on his present circumstances.

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8. Evaluate how the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* explores the theme of moral growth and understanding through the character of Scout Finch. Discuss the significance of Atticus Finch as a moral role model and the impact of the trial on Scout's development.

Section C

Answer any **THREE** questions ($3 \times 10 = 30$ Marks)

9. In Walt Whitman's poem "Miracles," the speaker contemplates the extraordinary nature of everyday occurrences. Analyze the poet's use of language, imagery, and structure to convey the idea that the mundane can be miraculous.
10. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech is a landmark moment in the American civil rights movement. Discuss the historical context of the speech, the impact of King's use of metaphor and repetition, and the ways in which he connects with his audience. Assess the effectiveness of King's dream as a symbol for social change.
11. O. Henry's short story "The Cactus" is known for its twist ending and clever narrative structure. Analyze the elements of foreshadowing, irony, and symbolism that contribute to the surprise ending. Discuss the character motivations and the moral dilemma presented in the story. Evaluate the effectiveness of O. Henry's storytelling technique in creating a memorable and thought-provoking narrative.
12. Tennessee Williams' play "The Glass Menagerie" is a classic exploration of family dynamics and personal aspirations. Evaluate the characters of Amanda, Tom, and Laura, considering their individual struggles and desires.
13. Analyze the symbolism of the marlin, the sea, and Santiago's journey, considering how these elements contribute to the deeper themes of the novella. Discuss Hemingway's writing style, particularly his use of spare language and understatement, and how it enhances the reader's engagement with the narrative.
