

THE UNIVERSITY OF BURDWAN
M. A. Part II Examination 2020 (DDE)
SUBJECT: ENGLISH
PAPER VIII
Option B: American Literature
(New Pattern)

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.

1. Answer *any three* of the following: 3X10=30

a. Discuss what Emerson means by 'every heart vibrates to that iron string'? How does he relate this to trusting oneself?

Or

Whitman explores the themes of expansiveness and inclusion in 'Passage to India'. Discuss with suitable references.

b. Can we read Hester Prynne in Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* as a rebellious figure? Discuss with close textual references.

Or

Huckleberry Finn explores the realities of the contemporary American society. Discuss with suitable examples in support of your answer.

c. Discuss how women and their situations are portrayed in *The Portrait of a Lady*.

d. In *Beloved*, how does Toni Morrison recover the past using the perspective of a female slave? Discuss with close textual references.

Or

How does Hong Kingston bring together autobiography and mythology in *The Woman Warrior*? Discuss with textual references.

e. How does Dickinson explore the theme of death in her poems? Discuss with reference to the poems in your syllabus.

Or

Write a critical appreciation of either Robert Frost's 'After Apple-Picking' or Sylvia Plath's 'Daddy'.

Or

Critically comment on Wallace Stevens' use of symbolism in 'The Emperor of Ice cream'.

f. Memory plays an important role in Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*.

Discuss with suitable textual references.

Or

What is the symbolic significance of Jerry's death in Edward Albee's *The Zoo Story*?

2. Answer *any two* of the following:

2X5=10

- a. Do you think Thoreau shows socialist tendencies in *Walden*? Discuss very briefly.
 - b. Comment briefly on Faulkner's use of time in *The Sound and the Fury*.
 - c. Comment briefly on any two symbols in Robert Frost's 'Design'.
 - d. Write a brief note on the major theme of *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*.
 - e. Briefly comment on the significance of the title of the play *Dutchman*.
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THE UNIVERSITY OF BURDWAN
M. A. Part II Examination 2020 (DDE)
SUBJECT: ENGLISH
PAPER VIII
Option E: Literary Theory
(New Pattern)

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.

1. Answer *any three* of the following: 3X10=30

a. To a dialogic critic a literary text is a site of polyphonic discourses. Discuss.

Or

Discuss the basic features of any one of the following: (i) linguistic criticism (ii) Russian Formalism (iii) New Criticism.

b. Why does Roland Barthes conclude that the author is dead? Discuss.

Or

‘Deconstruction is not a dismantling of the structure of a text but a demonstration that it has already dismantled itself.’ Do you agree? Give reasons.

c. Critically discuss the major objectives of Psychoanalytical Criticism.

Or

Critically discuss the major types of Reader-Response Criticism.

d. Feminist criticism is concerned with the ways in which literature reinforces or undermines the oppression of women. Discuss.

Or

Show how queer theorists have problematized the conventional assumptions about sexuality and identity.

- e. Discuss the importance of 'Ideology' in Marxist literary theory with special reference to Louis Althusser and Terry Eagleton.

Or

Discuss the salient features of New Historicism.

- f. Postmodernism celebrates the absence of coherence. Do you agree? Substantiate your answer.

Or

Assess the contribution of Edward Said to the development of Postcolonial Studies.

Or

'The aim of Cultural Studies is to examine cultural practices and their relations to power.'
Trace the rise of cultural studies as a discipline during the 1960s in the light of this observation.

2. Comment briefly on *any two* of the following: 2X5=10

- a. Intentional Fallacy
 - b. Anxiety of Influence
 - c. Diaspora
 - d. Dissociation of Sensibility
 - e. Magic Realism
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