

**CENTRE FOR DISTANCE AND ONLINE EDUCATION (CDOE)**

**M. A. Part II Examination 2021**

**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. i. Discuss how Henry David Thoreau enunciates the ideas of self-sufficiency in his *Walden*.

Or

ii. Comment Walt Whitman's use of the trope of journey in "Passage to India"?

b. i. Write a critical note on Nathaniel Hawthorne's exploration of guilt, revenge and redemption themes in *The Scarlet Letter*.

Or

ii. Comment on Mark Twain's foregrounding of the boy-hero figure and his adventures in *Huckleberry Finn*.

c. i. Discuss Ernest Hemmingway's characterizations of Lady Brett Ashley in *The Sun Also Rises*.

Or

ii. Comment on William Faulkner use the stream-of-consciousness technique in *The Sound and the Fury*? Discuss with close textual references.

d. i. Toni Morrison recovers the marginalised voices of American history. – Discuss.

Or

ii. Comment on Frederick Douglass' use of the form of autobiography to depict the

horrors of slavery in *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave*.

- e. i. Emily Dickinson had the rare ability to render abstract ideas into concrete images. Discuss with reference to the poems in your syllabus.

Or

- ii. Write a critical appreciation of either Robert Frost's 'Mending' or Sylvia Plath's 'Medallion'.

Or

- iii. Critically comment on the title of Wallace Stevens's 'The Emperor of Ice cream'.

- f. i. Amanda Wingfield represents the inextricable link between the past and the present in Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*. Critically comment.

Or

- ii. Le Roi Jones's *Dutchman* portrays the dilemmas faced by the American Blacks in the turbulent 1960s. Discuss with suitable textual references.

**2. Answer any two of the following:**

**2X5=10**

- a. Write a short note on Ralph Waldo Emerson's idea of 'self-reliance'.
- b. Critically comment on the role of Gilbert Osmond in Henry James's *The Portrait of a Lady*.
- c. Briefly comment on the central idea of Robert Frost's "The Gift Outright".
- d. Write a brief note on the form of 'talk-stories' that Maxine Hong Kingston uses in *The Woman Warrior*.
- e. Briefly comment on the significance of the title of Edward Albee's *The Zoo Story*.
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**CENTRE FOR DISTANCE AND ONLINE EDUCATION (CDOE)**

**MA Part-II Examination, 2021**

**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) i. Discuss the tenets of dialogic criticism with special reference to the concept of 'heteroglossia'.

Or

- ii. 'Linguistic criticism is probably the oldest form of textual criticism to develop' – Discuss.

- b) i. Elaborate how Structuralist critics analyse literature on the explicit model of structuralist linguistics.

Or

- ii. Discuss how reader-response theory proposes to shift the focus from the author to the reader.

- c) i. Discuss the aspects of gender inclusivity underlying the concepts central to Gender Studies.

Or

- ii. Comment on Louis Althusser's concept of 'interpellation'.

- d) i. Discuss 'exoticisation' in the context of Edward Said's idea of Orientalism.

Or

- ii. 'Narratology aims to reveal an underlying structure that can be identified in many different narratives' – Discuss.

- e) i. Discuss the contribution to Frantz Fanon's *The Wretched of the Earth* in the formation of postcolonial literary studies.

Or

- ii. Briefly trace the waves or phases in the history of Feminist literary theory.

f) i. Comment on Antonio Gramsci's ideas on 'civil society' and 'political society'.

Or

ii. Discuss the correlations between intertextuality and anxiety of influence.

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

**2x5=10**

a. Defamiliarisation

b. Close Reading

c. Différance

d. Id

e. Implied Reader

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