

AE-5010

M.A. (Final) Old Course
Term End Examination, 2016-17

ENGLISH

Paper - III

American Literature

Time : Three Hours] [Maximum Marks : 100
[Minimum Pass Marks : 36

Note : Answer **six** questions in all, in which Q. No. 1 is compulsory and answer from both the Section as directed. The figures in the right-hand margin indicate marks.

- 1.** Explain with reference to the context any **four** of the following passages : 5×4
- (a) In the swamp in secluded recesses,
A shy and hidden bird is warbling a song.
Solitary the thrush,
The hermit withdrawn to himself,
avoiding the settlements,
Sings by himself a song.
- (b) As all the Heavens were a Bell,
And being, but an Ear,
And I, and Silence, some strange Race,
Wrecked, solitary, here –

(2)

(c) I'd like to get away from earth awhile
And then come back to it and begin over.
May no fate willfully misunderstand me
And half grant what I wish and snatch
me away
Not to return.

(d) I have said that the sole effect of my
somewhat childish experiment — that of
looking down within the tarn — had been
to deepen the first singular impression.
There can be no doubt that the
consciousness of the rapid increase of my
superstition — for why should I not so
term it ?

(e) What about midway of a certain block
the policeman suddenly slowed his walk.
In the doorway of a darkened hardware
store a man leaned, with an unlighted
cigar in his mouth. As the policeman
walked upto him the man spoke up
quickly. "It's all right, officer", he said
reassuringly.

(f) When you write you are coming, he's all
smiles, and talks about the future, and —
he's just wonderful. And then the closer
you seem to come, the more shaky he
gets, and, then, by the time you get here,
he's arguing, and he seems angry at you.

(3)

- (g) All voting is a sort of gaming, like checkers or backgammon, with a slight moral tinge to it, a playing with right and wrong, with moral questions; and betting naturally accompanies it. The character of the voter is not staked.
- (h) The scholar is he of all men whom this spectacle most engages. He must settle its value in his mind. What is nature to him ? There is never a beginning, there is never an end to the inexplicable continuity of this web of God, but always circular power returning into itself.

Section - A

Answer any **three** questions of the following : 16×3

2. Write a note on Whitman as a lyricist of common man.

OR

Write an essay on the wide range of themes in the poems of Emily Dickinson, specially those prescribed for the study.

3. Discuss Robert Frost as a poet of nature.

OR

Write a critical note on the theme of 'The Road Not Taken'.

4. Attempt a detailed critical appreciation of 'The Cask of Amontillado'.

OR

(4)

What are the characteristics of O. Henry's technique as a short story writer ?

5. Write a note on the plot construction of 'Death of a Salesman'.

OR

Discuss Miller as a dramatist.

6. Does Thoreau's 'Civil Disobedience' consider Government as a moral institution or otherwise ? Explain.

OR

Critically evaluate Emerson's prose style with reference to 'The American Scholar'.

Section - B

Answer any **two** questions of the following : 16×2

7. Examine 'The Portrait of a Lady' as the story of a young lady affronting her destiny.
8. Discuss the power of illusion in 'The Glass Menagerie'.
9. "The most precious quality of a poem is its having run itself and carried away the poet with it." Discuss the views of Robert Frost as expressed in 'The Figure A Poem Makes' in the light of above statement.
10. Assess the contribution of Irving Babbitt to American literature with special reference to 'The Critic and American Life'.
11. Discuss 'The Old Man and the Sea' as a classic.