

This question paper contains 7 printed pages.]

7194

Your Roll No.

M.A. / I

A

ENGLISH – Course 8 (a)
(Studies in American Literature)
(Admissions of 2008 and before)

Time : 3 Hours

Maximum Marks : 75

*(Write your Roll No. on the top immediately
on receipt of this question paper.)*

*Answer Question No. 1, which is compulsory
and three other questions. Question No. 1 carries
30 marks (5 × 6) and the other questions
carry 15 marks each.*

*Note : The maximum marks printed on the question
paper are applicable for the ex-students of the
regular colleges (Cat. 'A'). These marks will,
however, be scaled up proportionately in respect
of the ex-students of NCWEB at the time of
posting of awards for compilation of result.*

1. Refer to the context and comment critically on any five of the following :

[P.T.O.]

- (a) (i) Hester's reasons, as explained by the narrator of *The Scarlet Letter*, for not leaving the vicinity of the puritan settlement even after her release from prison.

Or

- (ii) "Soon the head of the procession showed it self, with a slow and stately march, turning a corner, and making its way across the market-place. First came the music. It comprised a variety of instruments, perhaps imperfectly adopted to one another, and played with no great skill, but yet attaining the great object for which the harmony of drum and clarion addresses itself to the multitude, ... that of imparting a higher and more heroic air to the scene of life that passes before the eye."
- (b) (i) "But one cannot sustain an indifferent air concerning Fedallah. He was such a creature as civilized, domestic people in the temperate zone only see in their dreams, and that but daily, but the like of whom now and then glide among the unchanging Asiatic communities, especially the oriental isles to the east of the continent -- those insulated,

immemorial, unalterable countries which even in these modern days still preserve much of the ghostly aboriginalness of earth's primal generations, when the memory of the first man was a distinct recollection.

Or

- (ii) The whiteness of the whale.
- (c) (i) The significance of rites and rituals in the world of *Ceremony*.

Or

- (ii) "Their evil is mighty
but it can't stand up to our stories.
So they try to destroy the stories
let the stories be confused or forgotten
They would like that
....."
- (d) (i) Grass as a symbol in "Song of Myself".

Or

- (ii) "My tongue, every atom of my blood, formid
from this soil, this air,
Born here of parents born here from parents
the same, and their parents the same,

I, now thirty-seven years old in perfect health
begin,

Hoping to cease not till death."

- (e) (i) "In my hungry fatigue, and shopping for
images, I went into the neon fruit, super
market, dreaming of your enumerations !

What peaches and penumbras ! whole
families shopping at night ! Aisles full of
husbands ! Wives in the avocados, babies in
the tomatoes ! – and you, Garcia Lorca, What
were you doing down by the watermelons ?"

Or

- (ii) "It's not easy to know what is true for you or
me

At twenty –two, my age. But I guess I'm what
I feel and see and hear, Harlem, I hear you:
Hear you, hear me –

- (f) (i) The American is a new man, who acts upon
new principles; he must therefore entertain
new ideas, and form new opinions. From
involuntary idleness, servile dependence,
penury and useless labor, he has passed to
toils of a very different nature, rewarded by
ample substance – This is an American."

Or

(ii) "In this distribution of functions, the scholar is the delegated intellect. In the right state, he is Man Thinking. In the degenerate state, when the victim of society, he tends to become a mere thinker, or still worse, the parrot of other men's thinking."

2. (a) With reference to *The Scarlet Letter*, comment on the observation that Nathaniel Hawthorne was a critic as well as an heir to the Puritans of New England. Comment.

Or

(b) "The scarlet letter had not done its office." Expand into an essay.

3. (a) The Ishmael-Queequeg relationship forms a democratic counterpoint to the autocratic culture that Ahab embodies in his command over the crew of the Pequod. Discuss.

Or

(b) Comment on the characters of Pip, Starbuck and Ishmael in terms of the dissenting stances that each of them represents in their individual negotiations of Ahab's monomania.

4. (a) Consider *Ceremony* as an example of Grail fiction, a fiction in which the hero overcomes a series of challenges to reach a specified goal.

Or

- (b) "In *Ceremony*, Betonie, who integrates the realities of contemporary Native American life into traditional ritual, demonstrates ritual's potential for reflexivity." Discuss.
5. (a) "In 'Song of Myself' the poet discovers that he cannot celebrate his being without simultaneously celebrating all other beings in relation to whom he attains a selfhood." Comment.

Or

- (b) Consider "Song of Myself" as an elogy to the inclusiveness of American democracy.
6. (a) In the poetry of Langston Hughes, Allen Ginsberg and Denise Levertov, the equation of the public and the personal reaches a unique synthesis in modern American terms. Discuss.

Or

- (b) Discuss the extent to which the poetry of Langston Hughes, Allen Ginsberg and Denise Levertov

restores the quality of the American vision in and beyond the Vietnam era.

7. (a) In *'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf'* the 'revenge' of George against Martha's betrayal of breaking the singular rule of their 'game', leads ironically to their mutual stand against the Absurd. Do you agree ? Discuss.

Or

- (b) In *'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf'* Albee examines the irony of American materialism through the perspective of an acutely conscious though disillusioned generation. Do you agree ? Discuss.