

2(D)

M.A/Sem-II/Eng/OC-2(B)/DODL/20

2020

ENGLISH

Semester-II Examination (DODL)

Paper : OC-2(B)

(American Literature)

Full Marks : 80

Time : 4 Hours

The figures in the right-hand margin indicate marks.

Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.

GROUP-A

Answer any **four** questions :

15×4=60

1. a) How does Walt Whitman's poem "One's Self I Sing" embody the concept of "en masse" or the democratic spirit? Answer with textual reference. 15

OR

- b) How do you think Langston Hughes' poem "The Negro Speaks of Rivers" represent the Black American consciousness? Answer with example from the text. 15

[Turn over]

OR

- c) Trace the elements of female subjugation in an abusive marriage as exemplified by the titular character in "Aunt Jennifer's Tigers". 15

2. a) What does Laura's set of glass figurines symbolize in Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*? Does it represent the same things throughout the play, or does its meaning change? Give example from the text. 15

OR

- b) Examine the use of memory as a technique and theme in Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*. 15

3. a) Past plays an important role in the novel. The narrator tells a two-hundred-year-old story that is taken from a hundred-year-old manuscript. Comment on this pseudo-historic background of Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*. 15

OR

- b) Critically analyze the character of Arthur Dimmesdale in *The Scarlet Letter*. 15

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4. a) How does Gatsby represent the notion of the American Dream in the novel? In what ways do the themes of dreams, wealth, and time relate to each other in the novel's exploration of the idea of America? 15

OR

- b) Analyze the use and significance of imagery in Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. 15

GROUP-B

Answer any **four** questions : 5×4=20

1. a) Critically comment 5
"Since then - 'tis Centuries - and yet
Feels shorter than the Day
I first surmised the Horses' Heads
Were toward Eternity"

OR

- b) In Robert Frost's "The Mending Wall", what does the wall symbolize? 5
2. a) In *The Glass Menagerie*, why did Laura quit the business classes? 5

OR

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- b) What is the significance of Tom's abandoning Laura and Amanda in *The Glass Menagerie*? 5

3. a) How does the narrator in *The Scarlet Letter* differ from a traditional first- or third-person narrator? 5

OR

- b) Discuss the effect of the punishment upon Hester's personality. 5

4. a) What does the Owl-Eyed man in *The Great Gatsby* represent? 5

OR

- b) How does Nick Carraway first meet Jay Gatsby? 5

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