

M.A. 4<sup>th</sup> Semester Examination, 2022

ENGLISH

Course Code: ENG 408 ME (H)

Course ID: 40358

Course Title: *American Literature II*

Time: 2 hours

Full Marks: 40

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks.*

*Answer all the questions.*

UNIT I

1. Answer *any one* of the following questions: 1 x 12 = 12

- a) *The Catcher in the Rye* presents “Holden's acute moral and aesthetic perceptions – his eye for beauty as well as ‘phoniness’”. – Do you agree? Discuss Holden Caulfield as a misfit hero.
- b) “Holden's idiom is the novel's glory ... A blend of explosive denunciation and heart-on-sleeve sentiment”. – Discuss the language of *The Catcher in the Rye* in the light of the above statement.
- c) How do the three identities that Celie combines — as a dutiful daughter and wife, a submissive victim, and a steadfast friend — help and hinder her progress? Discuss.
- d) “*The Color Purple* gives an account of the terrible ways in which poor black women were abused, both by society and in the context of their home lives”. – Discuss.

UNIT II

2. Answer *any one* of the following questions: 1 x 12 = 12

- a) Describe how the birches appear “Loaded with ice a sunny winter morning/ After a rain”. How do you think Frost becomes one with nature in this poem?
- b) Discuss Marge Piercy's ‘Barbie Doll’ as a critique of stereotypical gender expectations held for women in society.

- c) “Interpersonal acceptance and rejection in the Loman family are at the heart of *Death of a Salesman*”. – Discuss how the problematic father-son relationship makes the Loman family dysfunctional.
- d) “Everyone felt Willy Loman was like someone they had known: a father or an uncle, a failure in the great age when all Americans had to succeed”. – Consider the character of Willy Loman in the light of the American Dream.

### UNIT III

**3. Answer any four of the following short questions:**

**4 x 4 = 16**

- a) Bring out the symbolism associated with the red hunting hat of Holden Caulfield.
- b) Briefly discuss the impact of the death of Allie on Holden Caulfield.
- c) Write a brief note on the thematic significance of Sofia Butler’s unjust imprisonment.
- d) Comment briefly on the symbolism of purple in Walker’s *The Color Purple*.
- e) Bring out the significance of the line “Two roads diverged in a yellow wood”.
- f) Explain the context and significance of the following lines:
- Then in the magic of puberty, a classmate said:
- You have a great big nose and fat legs.
- g) “Life is a casting off”. – Comment on Linda’s effort to unify her family through her domestic duties and frugality in *Death of a Salesman*.
- h) Would you consider the flute in *Death of a Salesman* as “a sound that takes Willy back to his childhood”? Critically comment.

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