

P.G. Semester-IV Examination, 2023**ENGLISH**

Course ID : 40357 Course Code : ENG 407ME(G)

Course Title : American Literature I

Time : 2 Hours Full Marks : 40

The figures in the right-hand margin indicate marks.

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

Answer all the questions.

UNIT-I

1. Answer any **one** of the following questions:

1×12=12

- a) Discuss how films noirs present a critique of the American Dream with reference to *any one* film of your choice.
- b) Discuss how the General Motors Company shaped the American Dream in Flint, Michigan.
- c) Analyse *any two* of the modern renderings of slave narratives by Black Women writers.
- d) Alice Walker's vindication of Zora Neale Hurston's works contradicts most Harlem Renaissance male renderings. Do you agree? Justify your answer.

[Turn over]

2. Answer any **one** of the following questions:

1×12=12

- a) The character of Dupin perfectly combines a sharp intellect with an excellent skill to analyse criminal psychology. Do you agree? Justify your answer.
- b) Examine the plot construction of 'The Purloined Letter'.
- c) Consider 'A Clean Well-Lighted Place' as a successful specimen of the short story.
- d) Hemingway's 'A Clean Well-Lighted Place' is a quest for the meaning of human existence. Do you agree? Discuss.

UNIT-III

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

4×4=16

- a) Comment briefly on the depiction of the American Dream as an illusion in Chicano novels.
- b) Do you agree that the materialism of the American Dream leads to the breakup of the nuclear family in Tennessee Williams's *The Glass Menagerie*? Discuss briefly.

- c) Write a note on the Black Mammy myth.
 - d) Elucidate the impact of blue-jazz music upon Harlem.
 - e) "Nil sapientiae odiosius acumine nimio. — Seneca." — How is this epigraph related to Poe's 'The Purloined Letter'?
 - f) "Do you remember the story they tell of Abernethy?" — What is the story and why does Dupin say thus?
 - g) "You should have killed yourself last week." — Who says this and why?
 - h) "I wouldn't want to be that old. An old man is a nasty thing." — Comment.
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