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## BRAINWARE UNIVERSITY

Term End Examination 2024-2025

Programme – B.A.(Eng)-Hons-2023

Course Name – American Literature

Course Code - BEN40109

( Semester IV )

Full Marks : 60

Time : 2:30 Hours

[The figure in the margin indicates full marks. Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.]

### Group-A

(Multiple Choice Type Question)

1 x 15=15

1. Choose the correct alternative from the following :

- (i) State the name of the person who drafted the First Declaration of Independence.
  - a) Benjamin Disraeli
  - b) Thomas Jefferson
  - c) George Washington
  - d) A.C. Krappe
- (ii) Identify which document issued by Abraham Lincoln declared that all slaves in Confederate-held territory were free.
  - a) The Gettysberg Address
  - b) The Emancipation Proclamation
  - c) The 13th Amendment
  - d) The Missouri Compromise
- (iii) State which of the following documents set forth the belief that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness"?
  - a) The Constitution
  - b) The Bill of Rights
  - c) The Articles of Confederation
  - d) The Declaration of Independence
- (iv) Name the narrator of the novel 'The Great Gatsby'.
  - a) Nick Carraway
  - b) Jay Gatsby
  - c) Tom Buchanan
  - d) Daisy Buchanan
- (v) State which of the following suitably describes the main theme of the novel 'The Great Gatsby'.
  - a) a story of the thwarted love between a man and a woman
  - b) decline of the American Dream in the 1920s
  - c) pursuit of pleasure
  - d) greed
- (vi) The repetition of the phrase "I rise" expresses \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) her determination to fight till the end
  - b) her determination not to succumb to oppression
  - c) her desire to keep the dream and hope of the slaves alive
  - d) All of these
- (vii) What critique is often associated with the American Dream? Choose.

- a) Its inherent intolerance for failure  
b) Minority communities are treated as second-class citizens  
c) Both a and b  
d) None of these.
- (viii) Identify the term used to denote progressive Western women in the 1920s (or the Roaring Twenties) who were primarily known for their modern sense of style and new attitudes toward womanhood, gender roles, and sexuality.  
a) The New Woman  
b) Femme Fatale  
c) Flappers  
d) Feminists
- (ix) Identify which of the following best describes the 'The Roaring Twenties'  
a) It was the time of the 'New Negro Movement' Harlem Renaissance  
b) It was the decade in which poets of the Beat Generation became popular  
c) It was the time of the Civil Rights Movement  
d) It was a decade of affluence and hedonism, easy money, wild alcohol consumption, and extravagant events were common, despite the Prohibition amendment that outlawed alcohol
- (x) Infer what does the term American Dream refer to.  
a) The ideal of achieving success and upward mobility through hard work  
b) An American movie  
c) The dream of freedom from slavery  
d) None of these
- (xi) Examine which theme is best illustrated by the contrast between West Egg and East Egg.  
a) The failure of capitalism  
b) The clash between old money and new money  
c) The rise of the working class  
d) The decline of morality in rural America
- (xii) Report what is ironic about Gatsby's funeral.  
a) Hundreds of people come, just as they did to his parties  
b) Daisy secretly attends and confesses her love for him  
c) Almost no one who attended his parties shows up  
d) Tom pays for the arrangements
- (xiii) Cite how Fitzgerald criticizes materialism in the novel.  
a) By showing how wealth leads to true happiness  
b) By depicting how characters with wealth remain unfulfilled  
c) By demonstrating the success of Gatsby's dream  
d) By suggesting that money can erase the past
- (xiv) Examine how Nick's role as a narrator influences the story.  
a) He is completely objective and unbiased  
b) He is an unreliable narrator with personal opinions  
c) He tells the story from Gatsby's point of view  
d) He focuses only on Daisy's perspective
- (xv) Examine how The Great Gatsby reflects the Jazz Age.  
a) It celebrates traditional values  
b) It critiques excess and moral decay  
c) It shows how all Americans became wealthy  
d) It portrays the nobility of the upper class

### Group-B

(Short Answer Type Questions)

3 x 5=15

2. Explain how the theme of resilience is portrayed in Maya Angelou's poem Still I Rise. (3)
3. Summarize the central message of Maya Angelou's poem Still I Rise. (3)
4. Construct an analysis of the speaker's relationship with oppression in Maya Angelou's poem Still I Rise. (3)
5. Identify the emotions conveyed in Maya Angelou's poem Still I Rise. (3)

6. Infer why Linda defends Willy despite his failures and mistreatment.

(3)

OR

Infer Montresor's true motivations in Edgar Allan Poe's short story The Cask of Amontillado based on his words and actions. (3)

**Group-C**

(Long Answer Type Questions)

5 x 6=30

7. Construct an analysis of the speaker's perspective in Walt Whitman's poem O Captain! My Captain! and how it influences the poem's tone. (5)
8. Identify the literary devices used in Walt Whitman's poem O Captain! My Captain! and analyze their effects. (5)
9. Illustrate how the setting of Edgar Allan Poe's short story The Cask of Amontillado contributes to the story's eerie and suspenseful mood. (5)
10. Write about the significance of Gatsby's death and how it reflects the novel's themes. (5)
11. Explain how Miller portrays the theme of betrayal in Death of a Salesman. (5)
12. Deduce the significance of Gatsby's past and how it influences his actions in the present. (5)

OR

Evaluate Daisy's character and her role in Gatsby's downfall. (5)

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