



# BRAINWARE UNIVERSITY

Term End Examination 2022  
Programme – B.A.(Eng)-Hons-2020  
Course Name – American Literature  
Course Code - BELS501  
( Semester V )

Library  
Brainware University  
329, Ramkrishnapur Road, Barasat  
Kolkata, West Bengal-700125

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) Identify the correct statement: Statement I: 1798 can be considered as the beginning of both British and American Romantic Age. Statement II: The Puritan influence on the ideology of American Romanticism can be perceived well in its literature.
- a) Statement I is true  
b) Statement II is true  
c) Both statements are true  
d) Both statements are not true
- (ii) Karl Rosenkranz' Die Ästhetik des Häßlichen borrows in from the works of \_\_\_\_\_.
- a) Kant  
b) Schiller  
c) Schlegel  
d) Hegel
- (iii) Which of the following phrases best captures the essence of Rosenkranz' assertion Das Negativschön?
- a) The Negative Beautiful  
b) The Negative Ugly  
c) The Negative Morals  
d) None of the above
- (iv) Miles to go before I sleep' can be explained as .....
- a) a long and tedious journey undertaken by a weary traveller  
b) the unfulfilled duties and responsibilities that need to be done while we are still alive, sleep suggests death and darkness  
c) the speaker is travelling, and needs to cover some distance before getting back home  
d) death-wish
- (v) From your understanding of the text 'The Great Gatsby', analyze which of the following statements is true
- a) Gatsby's power to dream lifts him above the meaningless and amoral pleasure-seeking of New York society  
b) In one sense, the title of the novel is ironic; the title character is neither "great" nor named Gatsby. He is a criminal whose real name is James Gatz, and the life he has created for himself is an illusion.  
c) Gatsby's love for Daisy has less to do with Daisy's inner qualities than with Gatsby's own.  
d) All the above

- (vi) Assess the following statements and state which one of them is true in the context of the poem 'Caged Bird' by Maya Angelou.
- a) The poem describes the opposing experiences between two birds: one bird is able to live in nature as it pleases, while a different caged bird suffers in captivity
- b) Angelou paints a critical portrait of oppression in which she illuminates the privilege and entitlement of the unoppressed, and conveys the simultaneous experience of suffering and emotional resilience
- c) only 2
- d) both 1 and 2
- (vii) The House in Poe's The Fall of the House of Usher creates an impression of \_\_\_\_\_ in the readers.
- a) Horror
- b) Supernatural
- c) Gothic
- d) All of the above
- (viii) Consider the line from The Great Gatsby--'I hope she'll be a fool—that's the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool'--and state which of the following is true
- a) Daisy speaks these words in Chapter 1 as she describes to Nick and Jordan her hopes for her infant daughter
- b) Daisy is not a fool herself but is the product of a social environment that, to a great extent, does not value intelligence in women.
- c) Both 1 and 2 are right
- d) Neither 1 nor 2 is right
- (ix) From your reading of the play 'Death of a Salesman', state which of the following is a valid inference
- a) Willy's primary obsession throughout the play is what he considers to be Biff's betrayal of his ambitions for him
- b) Willy develops a fear of abandonment
- c) both 1 and 2 are valid
- d) only 1 is valid
- (x) Identify the correct statement: Statement I: The tradition of literariness in America started with the British colonisers. Statement II: Non-white literature was incorporated within the canon of American literature as late as the 20th century after the popularisation of the various Civil Rights Movements.
- a) Statement I is true
- b) Statement II is true
- c) Both statements are true
- d) None of the statement is true
- (xi) Which of the following socio-political events heightened the migration of the English across the Atlantic to Newfoundland or America?
- a) The English Reformation
- b) The Test Acts
- c) The Hundred Years Wars
- d) The Restoration
- (xii) 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
- (xiii) Identify the correct statement: Statement I: The Revolutionary Period in American literature refers to poems like Walt Whitman's "O Captain! My Captain!" which were written during the American Civil War. Statement II: Benjamin Franklin's work Poor Richard's Almanack is a part of American literature written during the Revolutionary Period.
- a) Statement I is false
- b) Statement II is false
- c) Both statements are false
- d) None of the statement is false
- (xiv) Which of the following works is considered to be the first piece of literature to be written in America?
- a) Captain John Smith's The Generall Historie of Virginia, New England, and the Summer Isles
- b) Captain John Smith's A True Relation of Such Occurrences and Accidents of Noate as Hath Happened in Virginia
- c) John Winthrop's The History of New
- d) Cotton Mather's Magnalia Christi

England  
(xv) Which of the following is true for the canon of American literature?

Americana

- a) The canon of American literature is a very inclusive paradigm that includes white, non-white, native and all forms of mainstream and marginal literatures  
b) The canon of American literature is ever evolving, starting off with white only literature and slowly with time assimilating other marginal literatures  
c) Both of the above  
d) None of the above

**Group-B**

(Short Answer Type Questions)

3 x 5=15

2. Express your views on the idea that Maya Angelou's poem "Still I Rise" is a poem of protest. (3)
3. Write a short note on Miller's use of transparent walls in his play. (3)
4. Explain why Daisy marries Tom. (3)
5. Briefly examine the suitability of Nick as the narrator of Gatsby's story. (3)
6. Explain the significance of the following lines from Robert Frost's "Stopping by Woods": (3)

"And miles to go before I sleep,

And miles to go before I sleep."

OR

Describe the contrasting experience between the two birds in Maya Angelou's "Caged Birds" (3)

**Group-C**

(Long Answer Type Questions)

5 x 6=30

7. What can we conclude from Nick's statement (5)  
"He talked a lot about the past, and I gathered that he wanted to recover something, same idea of himself perhaps, that had gone into loving Daisy"
8. Comment on Fitzgerald's use of metaphors and symbols in *The Great Gatsby*. Refer to the text as validation. (5)
9. William Carlos Williams's modernism is different to T.S. Eliot's modernism- Give your opinion on this assertion and justify the same with relevant examples. (5)
10. Justify the title of Edgar Allan Poe's *The Cask of Amontillado*. (5)
11. Comment on the justification of the title of Poe's *The Fall of the House of Usher*. (5)

OR

Comment on the title of Poe's *The Cask of Amontillado*.

(5)

12. "Oh Captain! My Captain!" is an elegy. Explain. .

(5)

OR

Elucidate upon the possible reasons that led to the popularisation of American Romanticism. Validate your answer with examples.

(5)

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