



## **BRAINWARE UNIVERSITY**

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

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.
- 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. b) Angelou paints a critical portrait of oppression in which she illuminates the The poem describes the opposing experiences between two birds: one bird is privilege and entitlement of the unable to live in nature as it pleases, while a oppressed, and conveys the simultaneous different caged bird suffers in captivity experience of suffering and emotional resilience c) only2 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 b) Daisy is not a fool herself but is the product of a social environment that, to a great she describes to Nick and Jordan her hopes extent, does not value intelligence in for her infant daughter 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 b) play is what he considers to be Biff's Willy develops a fear of abandonment betrayal of his ambitions for him 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 d) The Declaration of Independence c) The Articles of Confederation (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 b) Captain John Smith's A True Relation of of Virginia, New England, and the Summer Such Occurrences and Accidents of Noate Isles as Hath Happened in Virginia c) John Winthrop's The History of New d) Cotton Mather's Magnalia Christi

England Americana (xv) Which of the following is true for the canon of American literature? a) The canon of American literature is a very b) The canon of American literature is ever inclusive paradigm that includes white, evolving, starting off with white only non-white, native and all forms of literature and slowly with time assimilating mainstream and marginal literatures 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 (3) protest. (3) 3. Write a short note on Miller's use of transparent walls in his play. 4. Explain why Daisy marries Tom. (3) 5. Briefly examine the suitabillity 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 Desrcibe the contrasting experience between the two birds in Maya Angelou's "Caged (3) Birds" **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 of Fitzgerald's use of metaphors and symbols in *The Great Gatsby*. Refer to the (5) text as validation. 9. William Carlos William's modernism is different to T.S. Eliot's modernism- Give your (5) opinion on this assertion and justify the same with relevant examples. 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 <i>The Cask of Amontillado</i> .	(5)
12. "Oh Captain! My Captain!" is an elegy. Explain.	(5)
<b>OR</b> Elucidate upon the possible reasons that led to the popualrisation of American Romanticism. Validate your answer with examples.	(5)