

(For the candidates admitted from 2024–2025 onwards)

M.A. ENGLISH DEGREE EXAMINATION, MAY 2025.

First Semester

Elective I — AMERICAN LITERATURE

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 75 marks

PART A — (10 × 2 = 20 marks)

Answer ALL questions

1. How is Brahma described by Emerson?
2. Analyze how Dickinson uses form to enhance the theme of hope.
3. What does Emerson mean by “The one thing in the world of value is the active soul” in “The American Scholar”?
4. Recall two pieces of advice Twain gives to youth.
5. Specify Jerry’s purpose and motive in Edward Albee’s *The Zoo story*.
6. What does Jerry’s interaction with the dog symbolize in *The Zoo story*?
7. Who is the oldest villager and what does he claim in Irving’s “Rip Van Winkle”?
8. Why is Poe’s “The purloined Letter” Considered ‘a tale of ratiocination’?
9. Show how is Sethe in danger and what saves her in Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*.
10. Why Santiago always takes the skiff’s sail home in Hemingway’s *The Old Man and the Sea*?

PART B — (3 × 5 = 15 marks)

Answer any THREE questions.

11. Interpret the bird’s symbolic role in Whitman’s “Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking.”
12. Analyze Emerson’s concept of Self-Trust in “The American Scholar”.
13. Justify why Jerry shares his life story with Peter in Albee’s *The Zoo Story*.
14. Relate the simultaneous foolishness and wisdom of Jim and Della in O. Henry’s “The Gift of the Magi.”

15. Explain how Momaday uses myth and ceremony to construct identity in *House Made of Dawn*.

PART C — (5 × 8 = 40 marks)

Answer ALL questions.

16. (a) Evaluate Frost's use of ambiguity in "Directive" as a tool for philosophical reflection.

Or

- (b) Assess the effectiveness of Maya Angelou's refrain "Still I Rise" as a rhetorical device.

17. (a) Define "good scholar" and explain the responsibilities of the American Scholar, according to Emerson.

Or

- (b) Evaluate how Twain incorporates humor in delivering moral lessons to youth.

18. (a) How Albee criticizes modern capitalist society in *The Zoo Story*?

Or

- (b) Analyze the title significance of Albee's *The Zoo Story*.

19. (a) Describe narrator's unreliability and nervous condition in Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper".

Or

- (b) Sketch the character of Jim in O. Henry's "The Gift of the Magi."

20. (a) Elucidate the use of stream of consciousness technique in Morrison's *Beloved*.

Or

- (b) Discuss Santiago as a tragic hero in Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*.

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