

**The University of Burdwan**  
**B.A. Part-III (Honours) Special Examination, 2020**  
**Subject: English**  
**Paper: VIII**

**Time: 2 Hours**

**Full Marks: 50**

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks.*  
*Candidates are to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.*

**(NEW SYLLABUS)**

**OPTION A: AMERICAN LITERATURE**

1. Answer **any three** of the following questions: 3X10=30
- a. Discuss how the Puritans in America laid the foundation for the religious, social and political order of New England Colonial life.
  - b. Write a critical appreciation of Robert Frost's 'The Road Not Taken'.
  - c. Is it significant that the speaker in *Lady Lazarus* is a woman? Give reasons in support of your answer.
  - d. Discuss *The Great Gatsby* as a novel about the decline of the American dream.
- Or
- Discuss Holden as a troubled and unreliable narrator in *Catcher in the Rye*.
- e. Discuss the role of fate in *Mourning Becomes Electra*.
- Or
- Discuss the major symbols in *A Raisin in the Sun*.
2. Answer **any four** of the following questions: 4X5=20
- a. How does the poet exploit the symbol of 'ferry' in 'Crossing Brooklyn Ferry'?
  - b. In 'Mending Wall' the 'wall' is the key metaphor. Discuss briefly.
  - c. Why does the poet say 'My hours are married to shadow' in 'The Colossus'?
  - d. Comment on the role of Nick Carraway in *The Great Gatsby*?
  - e. In *Catcher in the Rye*, what does Holden do when he hides himself in New York City?
  - f. Comment briefly on any one use of classical mythology in *Mourning Becomes Electra*.
- Or
- Comment briefly on the significance of the title of *Raisin in the Sun*.
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**OPTION B: INDIAN ENGLISH LITERATURE**

1. Answer **any three** of the following questions: 3X10=30

- a. Comment on the rise of the Indian English novel with special reference to one pre-independence novelist.
- b. There is an acute sense of alienation in 'My Grandmother's House'. Discuss.
- c. Discuss the poet's quest for identity in Agha Sahid Ali's 'Postcard from Kashmir'.
- d. Discuss critically the parent-child relationship in Dattani's *Tara*.

Or

Discuss the representation of triangular love in *Hayavadana*.

- e. Discuss the theme of 'touch' in Mulk Raj Anand's *Untouchable*.

Or

*The Hungry Tide* makes use of folk myths and legends. Discuss.

2. Answer **any four** of the following questions: 4X5=20

- a. How does the poet, in 'To India – My Native Land', express his love and deep emotion for his 'fallen country'?
- b. How does the poet recreate Kashmir as an imaginary homeland in the poem 'The Seasons of the Plains'? Answer briefly.
- c. Comment on Ramanujan's 'Epitaph of a Street Dog' as a poetic epitaph.
- d. Comment on Chandan as the survivor in *Tara*.

Or

Comment briefly on the role of Bhagavata in *Hayavadana*.

- e. Point out the difference between Colonel Hutchinson and his wife's treatment of Bakha.
  - f. Write a short note describing the storm in *The Hungry Tide*.
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