

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086
(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2008 – 09)

SUBJECT CODE: EL/MC/AL34

B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2009

BRANCH XII – ENGLISH

THIRD SEMESTER

COURSE : MAJOR – CORE

PAPER : AMERICAN LITERATURE

TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS : 100

SECTION A

1. Fix the context of any TWO of the following and answer the questions given below each passage, choosing at least ONE each from Poetry and Drama. (2x10=20)

1. "Warren," she said, "he has come home to die:
You needn't be afraid he'll leave you this time."
"Home," he mocked gently.
"Yes, what else but home?
It all depends on what you mean by home.
Of course he's nothing to us, any more
Than was the hound that came a stranger to us
Out of the woods, worn out upon the trail."
"Home is the place where, when you have to go there,
They have to take you in."
"I should have called it
Something you somehow haven't to deserve."
Warren leaned out and took a step or two,
Picked up a little stick, and brought it back
And broke it in his hand and tossed it by.
 - a. Explain the significant difference between Mary's and Warren's definition of 'home'. In this context, what does Silas' coming back signify?
 - b. What is the dominant emotion shown by Warren in the breaking and tossing of a stick? What other feelings does this act reveal?
2. why talk of beauty what could be more beautiful
than these heroic happy dead
who rushed like lions to the roaring slaughter
they did not stop to think they died instead
then shall the voice of liberty be mute?"
He spoke. And drank rapidly a glass of water
 - a. Attempt an appreciation of the satirical tone and use of simile here.
 - b. Comment on the last line quoted here. What significant aspect of the speaker does it reveal?

3. And when I saw that, I realized that selling was the greatest career a man could want. 'Cause what could be more satisfying than to be able to go, at the age of eighty-four, into twenty or thirty different cities, and pick up a phone, and be remembered and loved and helped by so many different people?
 - a. What are the possible two points- of- view from which this passage can be viewed? What aspect of the American dream does it reflect?
 - b. How does Dave Singleman, the mythic salesman's death affect the speaker?
4. "I don't say he's a great man. Willy Loman never made a lot of money. His name was never in the paper. He's not the finest character that ever lived. But he's a human being, and a terrible thing is happening to him. So attention must be paid. He's not to be allowed to fall into his grave like an old dog. Attention, attention must be finally paid to such a person.
 - a. What, according to you, is the main focal point made in this passage ? In this context, how relevant is the summing up of Willy Loman made here in terms of exclusions?
 - b. Why is attention to be paid? What is the dire need for it?

SECTION B

II. Answer any FOUR of the following in about 250 words each:- (4x10=40)

5. Examine the central concerns of the poem **next to of course god america** by e.e. cummings.
6. Your response to Emerson's **Self-Reliance** as dynamic representation of American Transcendentalism.
7. An appreciation of William Faulkner's use of powerful narrative techniques in **A Rose for Emily**.
8. An Appreciation of Jimmie Durham's dealing with the main issues of Native American poetry with special reference to his creative piece Columbus Day.
9. **Gimpel the Fool** is a classic which brought Singer to the attention of American reading audiences. Analyse its depiction of Jewish life; its emphasis on faith, and morality OR its sense Of irony.
10. An appreciation of Joy Harjo's use of some of the basic elements of modern American poetry in **Equinox** in her proposal to ' answer in the clatter of the new world'.

SECTION C

III. Answer any TWO of the following in about 750 words each: (2x20= 40 marks)

11. “..... a sound heart and a deformed conscience come into collision and conscience suffers defeat."evaluate Mark Twain's statement about his bildungsroman, **Huckleberry Finn** in terms of its major themes.
12. An Appreciation of Amy Tan's representation of the immigrant experience in her classic **Two Kinds**.
13. Examine Hemingway's portrayal of the old man in *The Old Man and the Sea*.
14. How effectively does Langston Hughes' **The Negro speaks of Rivers** come across as one of the foremost interpretations of the Black experience in the United States?
