

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

SUBJECT CODE: EL/ME/AA34

B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2009

BRANCH XII – ENGLISH

THIRD SEMESTER

COURSE : MAJOR – ELECTIVE

PAPER : AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE

TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS : 100

I. Analyze the following passages commenting on characterization, style, themes and imagery, connecting the excerpt with the text and issues to African American culture and society: (2x10=20)

- a) What happens to a dream deferred?
Does it dry up
Like a raisin in the sun?

OR

Someone is always at my elbow reminding me that I am the granddaughter of slaves. It fails to register depression with me.

- b) Clay : Don't you tell me anything! If I'm a middle-class fake white man... let me be... who I feel like being. Uncle Tom. Thomas. Whoever... You don't know anything except what's there for you to see. An act. Lies. Device. Not the pure heart the pumping black heart. You don't ever know that. And I sit here, in this buttoned-up suit, to keep myself from cutting all your throats.

OR

Lula : ... We'll pretend the people cannot see you. That is, the citizens. And that you are free of your own history. And I am free of my history. We'll pretend that we are both anonymous beauties smashing along through the city's entrails.

II. Write Short notes on any Four in about 250 words. (4x10=40)

- a) How does Maya Angelou treat the theme of motherhood in Gather Together in my Name?
- b) Examine the importance of education in A Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass.
- c) How does The Color Purple bring out letters as one of the few means of expression of oppressed women?
- d) Comment on the several relationships in The Bluest Eye.
- e) Is Flying Dutchman a racist, white-hating play? Discuss.
- f) Describe the mother-daughter relationship in 'Persephone Abducted.'

III. Answer in about 750 words.**(20x2=40)**

1. a) Discuss Toni Morrison's The Bluest Eye as a poignant portrayal of a black girl trapped by white society's ideals.

OR

- d) Describe Celie's growth as a person and her evolving perception of God in The Color Purple.

2. a) Discuss Baraka's Flying Dutchman as a highly symbolic play.

OR

- b) Discuss Maya Angelou's contribution to the black cause through her autobiography.
