

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, SEPTEMBER 2020
BRANCH XII – ENGLISH
SIXTH SEMESTER

COURSE: MAJOR-CORE

COURSE CODE: 15EL/MC/AL65

COURSE TITLE: AMERICAN LITERATURE

TIME: 1 ½ hours

MAX. MARKS: 50

SECTION A

I. Answer any one of the following in about 350 words. (1x15=15)

1. What aspects of Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* could you relate to the most and why?
2. What is your response to the break-down of Willy Loman as a human being? Does his life provide us insights into the American social and economic structures of the times?

SECTION B

II. Answer any one of the following in about 600 words. (1x20=20)

3. Do Elizabeth Bishop and Hemingway portray vastly different modes of relationship between the human world and the animal world? Substantiate your response with illustrations from the text.
4. How do the texts on the syllabus construct and interrogate the idea of the American nation?

SECTION C

III. Analyse the following passage in about 600 words with reference to theme, structure, and imagery. (1x15=15)

5. **The Negro Speaks of Rivers - Langston Hughes**

I've known rivers:

I've known rivers ancient as the world and older than
the flow of human blood in human veins.

My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

I bathed in the Euphrates when dawns were young.
I built my hut near the Congo and it lulled me to sleep.
I looked upon the Nile and raised the pyramids above it.
I heard the singing of the Mississippi when Abe
Lincoln went down to New Orleans, and I've seen its
muddy bosom turn all golden in the sunset.

I've known rivers:
Ancient, dusky rivers.

My soul has grown deep like the rivers.
