

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086
(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2019 – 2020)

SUBJECT CODE: 19EL/MC/AL65

B. A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2022
BRANCH XII ENGLISH
SIXTH SEMESTER

COURSE: MAJOR CORE
TITLE: AMERICAN LITERATURE

TIME: 3 HOURS
MAX. MARKS: 100

SECTION A

I. Answer any four of the following questions in about 250 words each. (4x10=40)

1. How does e.e. cummings critique American hyper-nationalism and militarism in his poem “next to of course god America”?
2. “The language of Elizabeth Bishop’s poetry is fundamental, unadorned and manages to authentically capture the reality of life.” Elaborate with reference to her poem “The Fish.”
3. Demonstrate how Joy Harjo transforms indigenous collective trauma into an expression of healing in her poem “Equinox.”
4. Identify the intersection between race and class in Nikki Giovanni’s poetry.
5. Discuss the role of foreshadowing in Arthur Miller’s *The Death of a Salesman*.
6. Examine the themes of loneliness and escapism in Robert Frost’s “Birches”.

SECTION B

II. Answer any three of the following questions in about 600 words each. (3x20 = 60)

7. Summarise Ralph Waldo Emerson’s arguments for the development of authentic American culture that clearly breaks from the culture of Europe from his essay “Self-Reliance”.
8. Examine the generational divide between first and second-generation immigrants in Amy Tan’s short story “Two Kinds”.
9. Trace Huckleberry Finn’s moral development in the novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.
10. How differently do Langston Hughes and Nikki Giovanni treat race? Illustrate your answer with examples of the poems “Nikki Rosa” and “Harlem: A Dream Deferred”.
11. According to Arthur Miller, “the common man is as apt a subject for tragedy in its highest sense as kings were.” Justify Miller’s statement with reference to the characters in *The Death of a Salesman*.
12. Critically examine the role of Jim in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.
