

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

SUBJECT CODE: 19EL/PC/AL14

M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2022
BRANCH VII – ENGLISH
FIRST SEMESTER

COURSE: MAJOR CORE
PAPER: AMERICAN LITERATURE:
MODERNISM AND AFTER

TIME: 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS: 100

SECTION- A

I. Answer any four out of the following in about 300 words each. (4x10 = 40 marks)

1. Why do critics say “The Idea of Order at Key West” is “perhaps impossible to interpret fully”, and that the poem “affirms a transcendental poetic spirit yet cannot locate it”?
2. What is the poetic significance of the wall as portrayed in Simon J. Ortiz “A Story of How A Wall Stands”?
3. How is the name “Silk Parachute” suitable for McPhee’s text? Justify.
4. How does stream of consciousness function in Faulkner’s *The Sound and the Fury*?
5. What is the actual mistaken identity that is discussed by Leslie Marmon Silko?
6. How is Blanche DuBois immortalised by Tennessee Williams in *A Streetcar Named Desire*?

SECTION- B

II. Answer any three of the following in about 750 words each. (3x20 = 60 marks)

7. Discuss the literary aspects of confessional poetry as demonstrated by Robert Lowell in the “Skunk Hour”.
8. Describe the central role of the telephone in the life of the inhabitants of Magdaluna.
9. Why is Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*, one of the greatest classics of all time? What universal themes does the text discuss?
10. What could Kushner have meant in titling his work ‘A Gay Fantasia on National Themes’? What national themes might he be referring to? What is the relationship between “gay” and “national” in the play?
11. How does modern American poetry engage with political and cultural aesthetics? Explain the key features of modern poetry in the above context.
