

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

COURSE: MAJOR CORE

TIME: 3 HOURS

PAPER: LITERATURE AND ECOLOGY

MAX. MARKS: 100

Section A

I Write an essay on any four in about 650 words each. (4x15=60 marks)

1. Trace the growth of environmental literary studies.
2. Discuss Karen Tei Yamashita's *Through the Arc of the Rain Forest* as a critique on globalization.
3. How does Sarah Joseph depict eco feminism in *Gift in Green*.
4. How does "The Wellfleet Whale" create awareness on human interaction with the natural world?
5. Write a note on the Green Belt movement in Kenya.
6. Discuss the ecoconsciousness embedded in the poem "I was Sleeping where the Black Oaks Move".

Section B

II Write an essay on any one of the following in about 750 words (1x20=20 marks)

7. Tinai forms the matrix of all social institutions – economy, polity, family and communication. Discuss.
8. Wordsworth's poetry 'foreshadows the modern science of ecology in its holistic conception of earth as a household, a dwelling place for an interdependent biological community'. Discuss.

Section C

III Critically analyse the following passage from an ecocritical perspective.

(1x20=20 marks)

I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived. I did not wish to live what was no life, living is so dear; nor did I wish to practice resignation, unless it was quite necessary. I wanted to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life, to live so sturdily and Spartan-like as to put to rout all that was not life, to cut a broad swath and shave close, to drive life into a corner, and reduce it to its lowest terms, and, if it proved to be mean, why then to get the whole and genuine meanness of it, and publish its meanness to the world; or if it were sublime, to know it by experience, and be able to give a true account of it in my next excursion. For most men, it appears to me, are in a strange uncertainty about it, whether it is of the devil or of God, and have somewhat hastily concluded that is the chief end of man here to "glorify God and enjoy him forever."

Still we live meanly, like ants; though the fable tells us that we were long ago changed into men; like pygmies we fight with cranes; it is error upon error, and clout upon clout, and our best virtue has for its occasion a superfluous and evitable wretchedness. Our life is frittered away by detail. An honest man has hardly need to count more than his ten fingers, or in extreme cases he may add his ten toes, and lump the rest. Simplicity, simplicity, simplicity! I say, let your affairs be as two or three, and not a hundred or a thousand; instead of a million count half a dozen, and keep your accounts on your thumbnail. In the midst of this chopping sea of civilized life, such are the clouds and storms and quicksands and thousand-and-one items to be allowed for, that a man has to live, if he would not founder and go to the bottom and not make his port at all, be dead reckoning, and he must be a great calculator indeed who succeeds. Simplify, simplify. Instead of three meals a day, if it be necessary eat but one; instead of a hundred dishes, five; and reduce other things in proportion....