

B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2011
BRANCH XII – ENGLISH
THIRD SEMESTER

COURSE : MAJOR – ELECTIVE
PAPER : AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE
TIME : 3 HOURS
MAX. MARKS : 100

I. Analyse the following passages commenting on characterization, style, themes and imagery. (2 x 10 = 20 marks)

a) Maybe it just sags
like a heavy load.
Or does it explode?

OR

That's for the birds, vulture and hawk,
the large ones who praise
the miracle on flight because
they use it so diligently.

b) ...the flying underbelly of the city. Steaming hot, and summer on top, outside.
Underground. The subway heaped in modern myth.

OR

Lula: And 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 of the following in about 250 words each. (4 x 10=40 marks)

1. Comment on the ways in which Angelou's **Gather Together in My Name** gives the reader insight into the challenges faced by a young African American mother?
2. Discuss Rita Dove's thematic concerns in **Persephone Abducted**.
3. Analyse the narrative technique in Alice Walker's **The Color Purple**.
4. Consider Baraka's **A Flying Dutchman** as an antiracist, emotionally charged play.
5. How does Douglass's **A Narrative of the Life** of Frederick Douglass, foreground the importance given to education?
6. It is said that Hughes's **Montage of a Dream Deferred** does not choose the dream but leaves it to the reader to decide. Discuss this statement in the light of the poem.

III. Write any two essays in about 750 words each.

(2x20=40 marks)

1. Do you agree with the view that Morrison's **The Bluest Eye** is a novel that contains several relationships, although the relationships never end pleasantly? Substantiate.
2. Consider Maya Angelou as a powerful African American woman writer, who helped in a very active way, the black cause. Discuss with reference to **Gather Together in My Name**.
3. How does it help Celie to pour out her heart to God in the form of her letters? Does it contribute to her evolution as a person?
