

B. A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2008
BRANCH XII – ENGLISH
FOURTH SEMESTER

COURSE : MAJOR – CORE
PAPER : AMERICAN LITERATURE

TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS : 100

SECTION – A (3 x 5 = 15)

1. Analyse any THREE of the following with regard to theme, tone, characterisation, and style, choosing at least one each from poetry and drama.

1.a. O you youths, western youths,
So impatient full of action, full of manly pride and friendship
Plain I see you western youths, see young tramping with the premost
Pioneers, O Pioneers!

b. I've known her – from an ample nation
choose one
Then...close the valves of her attention –
like stone

c. We are truly blessed because we
Were born, and die soon, within a
True circle of motion,
Like eagle rounding out the morning
Inside us.

II.d. “After all the highways, and the trains, and the years, you end up worth more dead than alive.”

e. “So I went on again and five minutes later I'm dreaming again and I nearly ... I have such thoughts, I have such strange thoughts.”

SECTION – B

II. Answer any FOUR in about 200 words each. (4x10=40)

1. Comment on Twain's fascination with the river and the role it plays in Huckleberry Finn.

2. Discuss The Old Man and the Sea as a mixed bag of triumph and tragedy.

3. What is the central theme of Amy Tan's Two Kinds?

4. Discuss Wallace Steven's "A High-toned old Christian Women" as a satire of the doctrinaire Christian.
5. How effectively does Frost's comparison of "Fire and Ice" come through?
6. Consider the symbolic value of Langston Hughes' poem "The Negro Speaks of Rivers."

SECTION – C

III. Answer any THREE in about 500 words each. (3x15=45)

1. What are the salient features of modern American poetry? Discuss with reference to Frost, Langston Hughes and e.e. cummings.
2. Discuss the importance of Transcendentalism with reference to Walt Whitman and Emerson.
3. Consider Death of a Salesman as a counter characterization of Aristotle's tragedy as the downfall of a great man.
4. Discuss the significance of the American South with reference to Faulkner and Eudora Welty.
5. Compare and contrast Harjo's Eagle poem with Hughes "The Negro Speaks of Rivers."
