

**STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086**  
**(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2008 – 09 & thereafter)**

**SUBJECT CODE: EL/MC/AL34**

**B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2010**  
**BRANCH XII – ENGLISH**  
**THIRD SEMESTER**

**COURSE : MAJOR – CORE**  
**PAPER : AMERICAN LITERATURE**  
**TIME : 3 HOURS** **MAX. MARKS : 100**

**SECTION A**

- 1. Fix the context of any TWO of the following and answer the questions given below each passage, choosing at least ONE each from Poetry and Drama. ( 2x10=20)**

1. In school I learned of heroic discoveries  
Made by liars and crooks. The courage  
Of millions of sweet and true people  
Was not commemorated.

- a. Explain the myth that surrounds Columbus's voyage.  
b. How is he portrayed in this poem.

2. Where did you say he'd been?"

"He didn't say. I dragged him to the house,  
And gave him tea and tried to make him smoke.  
I tried to make him talk about his travels.  
Nothing would do: he just kept nodding off."

"What did he say? Did he say anything?"

- a. How does Warren react when he learns that Silas is back?  
b. What makes Mary pity Silas?

3. I saw the things that I love in this world. The work and the food and the time to sit  
and smoke. And I looked at the pen and I thought, what the hell am I grabbing this  
for? Why am I trying to become what I don't want to be . . . when all I want is out  
there, waiting for me the minute I say I know who I am.

- a. How does Biff free himself from Willy's expectations for him?  
b. Does Biff succeed in his attempt to cure Willy's delusions?

4. And when I saw that, I realized that selling was the greatest career a man could want. 'Cause what could be more satisfying than to be able to go, at the age of eighty-four, into twenty or thirty different cities, and pick up a phone, and be remembered and loved and helped by so many different people?
  - a. Comment on Willy's obsession with being well liked.
  - b. What does Willy fail to comprehend in life?

### SECTION B

#### II. Answer any FOUR of the following in about 250 words each.

(4 x 10=40 marks)

5. Willy's retreat into the past is not only to escape the present but also to examine the past. Discuss.
6. Write a note on Emerson's philosophy of individualism.
7. Show how e.e. cummings's "next to of course god america i", though seemingly light hearted is laced with undertones of criticism of society.
8. How does William Faulkner lessen the horror and repulsion of Emily's action in "A Rose for Emily"?
9. What is the central theme of Frost's poem "Death of a Hired Man" .
10. How does Langston Hughes capture the African American's historical journey to America in his poem "The Negro Speaks of Rivers"?

### SECTION-C

#### III. Answer any TWO of the following in about 750 words each.

(2 x 20=40 marks)

11. Show how Jimmie Durham's subversive account of Columbus's voyage expresses the sentiments of the American Indian activists.
12. Analyse the relationship that exists between Huckleberry Finn and Jim.
13. "A man can be destroyed but not defeated," says the old man after the first shark attack. At the end of the story, is Santiago defeated? Why or why not?
14. How does Amy Tan portray the burden of the impact of the American Dream and the immigrant experience.

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