

The University of Burdwan
B.A. Part-III (Honours) Examination, 2020

Subject: English

Paper: VIII

Time: 2 Hours

Full Marks: 50

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

Candidates are to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.

(NEW SYLLABUS)

OPTION A: AMERICAN LITERATURE

1. Answer **any three** of the following questions: 3X10=30
- a. What were the major events during the American Civil Rights Movement?
 - b. Justify the title of Robert Frost's 'The Road Not Taken'.
 - c. Discuss 'Lady Lazarus' as a commentary on a female artist's struggle for autonomy in a patriarchal society.
 - d. Discuss the use of symbols in *Great Gatsby*.
Or
Discuss how Holden tells his own story in his own strange idiom in *Catcher in the Rye*.
 - e. Discuss *Morning Becomes Electra* as a tragedy.
Or
Write a note on the idea of the 'American dream' in *A Raisin in the Sun*.
2. Answer **any four** of the following questions: 4X5=20
- a. What attitude of the poet towards death is revealed in 'Crossing Brooklyn Ferry'?
 - b. Write a short note on Langston Hughes's 'I, too' as a commentary on racism.
 - c. Assess the importance of the role of Nick Carraway in *The Great Gatsby*.

- d. What does Holden do when he hides himself in New York City?
- e. Comment very briefly on the classical Oedipal trajectory that Lavinia traces in *Mourning Becomes Electra*.
- f. In *Raisin in the Sun*, what do the Youngers of the family of Chicago intend to do with the money coming from the life insurance policy?

OPTION B: INDIAN ENGLISH LITERATURE

1. Answer **any three** of the following questions: 3X10=30

- a. Assess the contribution of Aurobindo Ghosh to Indian English poetry.
- b. In 'To the Pupils of the Hindu College' is revealed a teacher's "passionate temperament combined with unbounded sympathy". Discuss.
- c. 'Hunger' shows the poet's distress over poverty and discrimination of women. Discuss.
- d. Write a note on the theme of discrimination along lines of class and gender in *Tara*.

Or

Discuss the themes of love and sexuality in *Hayavadana*.

- e. *Untouchable* is a critique of India's caste system. Discuss.

Or

The Hungry Tide is a novel that depicts the history of the dispossessed. Discuss.

2. Answer **any four** of the following questions: 4X5=20

- a. Comment briefly on the poet's realization in 'The Stone Age' that the life of exclusive lust ultimately leads to lifelessness.
- b. Discuss briefly two poetic devices used by the poet to develop the theme of the poem 'The Seasons of the Plains'?
- c. How does the poet show his love and pity for the animal in 'Epitaph of a Street Dog'?
- d. Write a brief note on the significance of Tara's name in *Tara*.

Or

"But the question now is simply this: whose wife is she?" Critically comment on this line from *Hayavadana*.

- e. How is Sohini treated by Pundit Kali Nath?
- f. Write a short note on the myth of Bon Bibi in the context of *The Hungry Tide*.

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(OLD SYLLABUS)

1. Answer **any three** of the following questions: 3X10=30
 - a. Write a note on the French influence on the English language.
 - b. What are the main differences between Grimm's Law and Verner's Law?
 - c. Why does Jespersen say that the influence of Latin on the English language is both a hindrance and a help?
 - d. Give the consonant and vowel sounds of British English with phonetic symbols as used by the International Phonetic Association (IPA).
 - e. Write a short essay within 350 words on 'The Study of Literature'. You may use the following guidelines:
[What is literature? — the pleasures we derive from reading literature — conclusion]

2. Answer **any four** of the following questions: 4X5=20
 - a. What is Back Formation?
 - b. Comment on any two aspects of Indian English.
 - c. What are Hybrid words in English? Answer briefly with two examples.
 - d. What are Cardinal Vowels?
 - e. Give five rules for word-accent in English.
 - f. Write a note on 'grammaticality' and 'acceptability'.