

**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'.