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Sixth Semester B.A. Degree Examination, April 2025 First Degree Programme under CBCSS English Language and Literature Elective Course

EN 1661.2 : AMERICAN LITERATURE (2020 Admission Onwards)

Time: 3 Hours Max. Marks: 80

- I. Answer all questions each in a word or a sentence.
- 1. What journey is referred to in the poem "O Captain! My Captain!"?
- 2. What does Lord Byron lament in Lord Byron's Love Letter?
- 3. Who is addressed as 'dearest Teresa'?
- 4. Where does the narrator meet Simon Wheeler?
- 5. How do the characters spend their time at the campsite?
- 6. Who is the subject of 'Saving the Life That is Your Own: The Importance of Models in the Artist's Life'?
- 7. What does the woman in the poem 'Her Kind' implies when she describes herself as a 'woman who is a witch'?
- 8. In the context of 'The snowman,' how does one achieve a 'mind of water'?

- 9. How does Levertov's poem show the fragmented nature of memory and history?
- 10. Who wrote, "A poem should not mean/But be"?

 $(10 \times 1 = 10 \text{ Marks})$

- II. Answer any eight, each in a short paragraph not exceeding 50 words.
- 11. Define civil disobedience based on King's interpretation in the letter.
- 12. What is the significance of the frog's behaviour after the contest, and how does it add humour to the story?
- 13. What was Jim Smiley's reputation in the town, and why did the narrator want to learn more about him?
- 14. What is the fate of the outcasts in the end?
- 15. What societal pressures does Walker critique regarding race gender and class, and how do they impact individual autonomy?
- 16. What role does the imagery of winter play in 'The Snowman'?
- 17. What role do the images of "palpable designs" and "mute and enormous" in 'Ars Poetic' play in conveying the power of poetry?
- 18. In what way does 'Her Kind' explore the concept of identity?
- 19. How does 'What Were They Like' express the consequences of war on a society's collective memory and heritage?
 - 20. The importance of models in an artist's life.
- 21. How does Jim Smiley's obsession with betting shape his interactions and reputation within Calaveras County?
- 22. What event leads to the expulsion of the outcasts from Poker Flat?

 $(8 \times 2 = 16 \text{ Marks})$

- III. Answer any six, each in a paragraph not exceeding 100 words.
- 23. How does the theme of memory shape the narrative of 'Beloved'?
- 24. What are the characteristic principles that King identify as essential for civil disobedience?
- . 25. How does the character of John Oakhurst demonstrate resilience and self-sacrifice in "The Outcasts of Poker Flat"?
- 26. How does Alice Walker's essay on "Saving the Life That Is Your Own" contribute to on-going conversations about identity, power dynamics, and the pursuit of
- .27. What is the significance of the Lord Byron's Love letter in creating the drama central to the plot?
- . 28. Discuss the significance of the snowman as a symbol in the context of the poem.
- -29. How does 'Lord Byron's Love Letter' underscore the traditional gender roles?
- 30. In the context of "So You Want To Be A Writer," what is the importance of authenticity and passion in writing?
- 31. What critique does "Her Kind" offer about the limitations and consequences of conforming to societal standards of femininity?

 $(6 \times 4 = 24 \text{ Marks})$

- IV. Answer any two, each in about 300 words.
- 32. Comment on the criticisms the clergymanievel against King's approach to achieving civil rights and evaluate King's responses to these criticisms.
- 33. How does Whitman explore the personal and national grief experienced after the death of President Abraham Lincoln? Analyse the symbolism in the poem.
- 34. Through Sethe's story, Morrison invites readers to confront the uncomfortable truths of America's past and to reckon with the on-going impact of slavery on contemporary society. Explain.
- 35. Explore how Saul Bellow portrays the challenges materialism bring into the life of modern man?

 $(2 \times 15 = 30 \text{ Marks})$