

M.A. Examination, 2014
Semester – III
English
Paper – VII (Core)
(20th Century American Literature)

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value.

Answer *any four* questions.

4×10=40

1. Conflicts of racial and cultural identities inform twentieth century American literature. Discuss.
 2. (a) Examine *For Whom The Bell Tolls* as an 'American' novel about the Spanish Civil War.

or

(b) Consider the significance of Faulkner's title, *As I Lay Dying*.
 3. (a) William Faulkner and Sandra Cisneros attempt to locate the margins of American culture based on class and race respectively in the two short stories in your syllabus. Comment.

or

(b) Discuss Hemingway's idea of heroism with reference to "The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber".
 4. Consider *A Streetcar Named Desire* as a play located at the intersection of cultures.
 5. Examine the trope of the 'living/dead bird' in Toni Morrison's "Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech".
 6. Compare Robert Frost and Allen Ginsberg as representatives of two distinct American poetic traditions, with reference to the poems in your syllabus.
 7. Can you locate an uneasy undercurrent of female anxiety in the poems by Adrienne Rich and Sylvia Plath? Is this anxiety symptomatic of socio-cultural upheavals or gender issues?
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