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Register Number:

Name of the Candidate:

M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, May 2015

(ENGLISH)

(FIRST YEAR)

550: AMERICAN LITERATURE

Time: Three hours

Maximum: 100 marks

SECTION-A

(5×8=40)

Answer any FIVE of the following questions

I. Annotate the following passages:

1. a) Again I saw, again I heard.
The rolling river, the morning bird;-
Beauty through my senses stole;
I yielded myself to the perfect whole.
- b) The ecstasies above
With thy burning measures suit-
Thy grief, thy joy , thy hate , thy love,
With the fervour of thy lute-
Well may the stars be mute!
2. a) Passing the apple tree blows of white and pink in the orchards,
Carrying a corpse to where it shall rest in the grave,
Night and day journeys a coffin
- b) I see him there
Bringing a stone grasped firmly by the top
In each hand like an old-stone savage arm'd
3. a) Each age, it is found, must write its own books;
Or rather, each generation for the next succeeding
The books of an older period will not fit this
- b) The dread of man and the love of man shall be a
Wall of defence and a wreath of joy around all
A nation of men will for the first time exist,
Because each believes himself inspired by the
Divine soul which also inspires all men.

4. a) If any literary work is too long to be read at one sitting, we must be content to dispense with the immensely important effect derivable from unity of impression –for, if two sittings be required, the affairs of the World interfere, and everything like totality is at once destroyed.
- b) With the indulgence, to the extreme, of this Self-torture, the narration, in what I have termed its first of obvious phase, has a natural termination. and so far there has been no overstepping of the limits of the real.
5. a) She'll never come. She's had her belly -full I'm telling you. She'll be in bed now. I'm thinking, wid ten doctors and nurses feedin' her salts to clean the fear out of her.
- b) Dynamite! Blow it often de oith –steel –all de cages-all de factories, steamers, buildings, Jails-de steel trust and all dat makes it go.
6. a) I'm six years young than you are... I always been and I always will be
- b) You're all flops. I am the Earth Mother and You're all flops.

II. Attempt the following questions in about 200 words each:

7. a) What are the four basic sequences of images that define the lady's identity in the poem "Lady Lazarus"?
- b) How does Lowell describe the decay of New England civilization in "Skunk hour"?
8. a) What does Thoreau mean by simple life?
- b) Discuss the main theme of *All My Sons*.

SECTION-B

(3×20=60)

III. Answer any THREE of the following questions :

9. a) Consider "The Raven" a study of the psychological disintegration of sensitive mind.

(OR)

- b) Discuss Robert Frost's Poems as the Supreme example of the Paradoxes of life.

10. a) Bring out the central message of "American Scholar".
(OR)
b) Write a note on Poe's choice of subject matter and his conception of beauty.
11. a) Consider *The Hairy Ape* an expressionistic play.
(OR)
b) Discuss *Who is Afraid of Virginia woolf?* As an absurd drama.
12. a) What autobiographical material does Melville use in *Billy Budd*?
(OR)
b) Attempt a character sketch of Dimmesdale in *The Scarlet Letter*.
13. a) Comment on the element of humour as revealed in the novel *Huckleberry Finn*
(OR)
b) Discuss Hemingway's attitude to war as illustrated in *A Farewell to Arms*.
