PG Odd Semester (CBCS) Exam., December—2016

ENGLISH

(3rd Semester)

Course No. : ENG–302 (C)

(American Literature up to 1900)

Full Marks : 75
Pass Marks : 30

Time : 3 hours

The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions

UNIT—I

1. *(a)* Write a note on the major features of American chattel slavery. 10

Or

(b) Examine in detail the British colonisation of the 'New world' and the establishment of its colonies.

2. Write a short note on any *one* of the following : 5

(a) Manifest Destiny

(b) The Trail of Tears

UNIT—II

3. *(a)* How does Phillis Wheatley critique racist assumptions in *On Being Brought from Africa to America*? 10

Or

(b) In Paul Laurence Dunbar's *We Wear the Mask*, what is the significance of the assertion that it is the 'mask' that is grinning and lying, and not the wearer of the mask?

4. *(a)* Comment on the use of the refrain 'Nevermore' in Edgar Allan Poe's *The Raven*. 5

Or

(b) Write a short note on Emily Dickinson's use of punctuation in the poems prescribed in your course.

UNIT—III

5. *(a)* Critically evaluate the role and function of the 'creator' in the Native American creation stories prescribed in your course. 10

Or

(b) Analyse how Edgar Allan Poe dramatises the importance of intuition vs. the importance of logic in *The Purloined Letter*.

6. *(a)* Write a short note on the character of Enigrio. 5

Or

(b) Comment on Poe's use of humour in *The Purloined Letter*.

UNIT—IV

7. *(a)* Discuss the relevance of Mark Twain's use of a child as the centre of consciousness in *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.* 10

Or

(b) What is the significance of the three scaffold scenes in *The Scarlet Letter*?

8. *(a)* Write a brief note on the character of Pap Finn. 5

Or

(b) Comment on the symbolic significance of Pearl.

UNIT—V

9. *(a)* Enumerate Ralph Waldo Emerson's contribution to the development of American transcendentalism with special reference to *Nature*. 10

Or

(b) Why does Frederick Jackson Turner say that "the American intellect owes its striking characteristics" to the frontier?

10. *(a)* What is the significance of the title of Frederick Douglass' speech, *What to the Slave is the Fourth of July*? 5

Or

(b) Comment on the land of 'Red Apples' as a symbol in Zitkala-Sa's *Impressions of an Indian Childhood*.

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