

IV Semester B.A. Examination May/June 2006  
(Semester Scheme)  
OPTIONAL ENGLISH (Paper - IV)  
American Literature and Aspects of Language

Time: 3 Hours

Max. Marks: 90

*Instruction: Answer all questions.*

1. Annotate **three** of the following :

3x5=15

a) It launche'd forth filament, filament, filament, out of itself,  
Ever unreeling them, ever tirelessly speeding them.

→ noiseless spider

b) Since then - 'tis centuries - and yet  
Feels shorter than the Day  
I first surmised the Horses' Heads  
Were toward Eternity -

— The chariot

c) Earth's the right place for love I don't know where it's likely to go better.

Birches

d) (now the ears of my ears awake and now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

I Thank  
you God

e) Help me to shatter this darkness,

To smash this night,

To break this shadow

As I Grew Older

2. A) Answer **one** of the following :

1x15=15

a) Sojourner Truth's Ain't I A Woman embodies her crusade for Afro-American Women's rights - Discuss.

b) Bring out the conflict between fantasy and reality in Birches by Robert Frost.

2. B) Write a short note on **one** of the following :

1x5=5

i) Yearning of the Soul in Whitman's poem.

ii) Unconventionality of Cummings' poem.

iii) Symbolism in "the wall rising slowly, slowly' ...." in As I Grew Older.

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3. A) Answer **one** of the following : 1×15=15

- a) Critically examine the various thematic interpretations of Arther Miller's Death of A Salesman.
- b) Examine Willy Lamén is a tragic hero.

3. B) Write a short note on **one** of the following : 1×5=5

- i) Uncle Ben
- ii) The relationship between Biff and Happy
- iii) 'Flash-back' technique used in the play.

4. A) Answer **one** of the following : 1×15=15

- a) From the study of Red Jacket's speech, attempt a critical evaluation of his concept of civilisation.
- b) Examine Malamud's use of the dream reality mixture in The Magic Barrel.

4. B) Write a short note on **one** of the following : 1×5=5

- i) The simile in Hills Like White Elephants
- ii) Pinye Solzman, the match maker
- iii) The significance of the statement, "we gave them corn and meat; they gave us poison".

5. A) Analyse the discourse of **one** of the passages given below by answering the questions on it :

It remains to be explained how the change from the atmosphere, as it then existed, to the present atmosphere has been brought about. For more than a century it has been recognised that the presence of free oxygen in the atmosphere, which we are apt to take for Granted, demands explanation. Oxygen is an element that is chemically active. Whereas the rare gases in the atmosphere are chemically inert and do not form compounds with other elements, oxygen does not like to exist alone. It is always eager to join up with other elements to form oxides. The rusting of iron is an illustration, rust being merely iron oxide. Combustion is nothing more than a process of oxidation. As we have already explained, combustion can't occur in the absence of oxygen : if a glowing piece of wood is placed in a jar containing oxygen, it'll at once burst into flames, because the oxidation then proceeds at a greatly enhanced rate.

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- a) What is the domain of the passage ? Justify. 3
- b) What are the manitoring features of the passage ? Why has the speaker used them ? 2
- c) What is the dominant function of the passage ? Explain. 2
- d) Mention three other micro functions of the passage with examples. 3
- e) Give examples of i) inexplicitness  
ii) non-fluency. 2
- f) Give the examples of informal language items. 2
- g) What is the mode of the passage ? 1

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