



**LOYOLA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), CHENNAI – 600 034**

**B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION – ENGLISH LITERATURE**

**THIRD SEMESTER – NOVEMBER 2014**

**EL 3502 - AMERICAN LITERATURE**

Date : 31/10/2014  
Time : 09:00-12:00

Dept. No.

Max. : 100 Marks

**SECTION- A**

**Answer the following in about 30 words each:**

**(10x2=20 marks)**

1. Why did the early settlers flee England to establish a colony in North America? What were the main objectives of the *Mayflower Compact*?
2. What is the “Weary Pilgrim’s” attitude to death?
3. What are Thomas Paine’s reasons for rebelling against Great Britain?
4. Explain: Thrice happy, when exalted to survey  
That splendid city, crown’d with endless day,  
Whose twice six gates on radiant hinges ring:  
Celestial Salem blooms in endless spring.
5. Why does Poe say that “Melancholy is the most legitimate of all the poetical tones?”
6. Explain: “I am the doubter and the doubt,  
I am the hymn the Brahmin sings.”
7. Comment on the poet’s mood in “I sit and look out.”
8. Explain “the play is memory.”
9. How and why according to Wallace Stevens is “Poetry a Destructive Force?”
10. Explain "imaginary gardens with real toads in them."

**SECTION- B**

**Answer any FIVE of the following in about 150 words each:**

**(5x8=40 marks)**

11. Critically discuss Cotton Mather’s ambivalent attitude to the Salem witchcraft trials.
12. Explain how Phillis Wheatley uses art to attain spiritual fulfillment.
13. Explain the symbolism in *The Minister’s Black Veil*.
14. Critically comment on the role and character of the Oiler (Billie) in *The Open Boat*.
15. How is the theme of the American dream expressed in *Death of a Salesman*?
16. To what extent is Laura like the author, Katherine Anne Porter of *Flowering Judas*?
17. What does Laura’s collection of glass animals represent?
18. Critically comment on the aptness of the title *Of Mice and Men*.

**SECTION- C**

**Answer the following in about 300 words each:**

**(2x20=40 marks)**

19. What are the basic tenets of Transcendentalism? Explain with reference to Emerson’s poetry.

**(OR)**

Critically discuss Whitman’s philosophy as expressed in *Leaves of Grass* with particular reference to “I Sit and Look Out.”

20. Critically discuss the theatre craft of *The Glass Menagerie*.

**(OR)**

What are the poetic devices Frost uses in *The Road Not Taken*? Critically comment on their effectiveness.

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