

Paper V — AMERICAN LITERATURE

(For those who joined in July 2003 and after)

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 100 marks

SECTION A — (60 marks)

Annotate FIVE of the following passages choosing at least TWO from each group. (5 × 4 = 20)

GROUP A

1. Unmoved, an emperor be kneeling
Upon her mat.
2. But with mien of lord or lady,
Perched above my chamber door,
Perched upon a bust of Pallas just
above my chamber door.
3. No one has seen them made or heard them made,
But at Spring mending time we find them there.
4. Or butterflies, off banks of noon,
Leap, splashless, as they swim.

5. The Past – the dark unfathom'd retrospect!
The teeming gulf – the sleepers and the shadows!
The past – the infinite greatness of the past!

GROUP B

6. The poet, in utter solitude, remembering his spontaneous thoughts and recording them, is found to have recorded that which men in crowded cities find true for them also.

7. In the degenerate state, when the victim of society, he tends to become a mere thinker, or still worse, the parrot of other men's thinking.

8. Only so much do I know, as I have lived. Instantly we know whose words are loaded with life, and whose not.

9. Heaven have mercy! – You're a Christian martyr,
Yes, that's what you are, a Christian martyr.

10. He had the Midas touch, whatever he touched
turned to gold!

Answer TWO of the following questions in about
500 words each. (2 × 20 = 40)

11. How, according to Emerson, does nature influence the scholar?

12. Write an essay on Emily Dickinson's inner life.

13. How does Whitman celebrate the three great achievements of his time in "Passage to India"?

14. Analyse the character of Laura in *The Glass Menagerie*.

15. In *The Glass Menagerie*, Tennessee Williams reveals a human predicament, without suggesting a solution – Discuss.

SECTION B — (40 marks)

Answer TWO of the following questions in about
500 words each. (2 × 20 = 40)

16. Examine Janes's views on the art of fiction.

17. How does "Walking in the Blue" describe the whole American society as a mental hospital?

18. Analyse the failure of Willy Loman.

19. How far can *The Old Man and the Sea* be considered as an epic struggle of man against nature?

20. Write a critical note on the three major characters in *The Scarlet Letter*.