

This question paper contains 5 printed pages.

2181

Your Roll No

M.A. / I

ENGLISH— Course 8 (a)

(Studies in American Literature)

(Admissions of 2008 and before)

Time 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 75

*(Write your Roll No on the top immediately
on receipt of this question paper)*

*Answer Question No. 1, which is compulsory and
three other questions. Question No 1 carries
30 marks (5×6) and the other questions
carry 15 marks each.*

NOTE:—*The maximum marks printed on the question
paper are applicable for the ex-students of the
regular colleges (Cat. 'A'). These marks will,
however, be scaled up proportionately in respect
of the ex-students of NCWEB at the time of
posting of awards for compilation of result.*

1. Refer to the context and comment critically on any five
of the following:

- (a) (i) The figure of Ann Hutchinson as involved in
relation to the life and times of Hester
Prynne

P.T.O

Or

(ii) "Hester Prynne, gazing steadfastly the clergyman felt a dreary influence come over her, but wherefore or whence she knew not; unless that he seemed so remote from her own sphere, and utterly beyond her reach ..."

(b) (i) "... but in New Bedford, actual cannibals stand chatting at street corners, savages outright, many of whom yet carry on their bones unholy flesh It makes a stranger stare"

Or

(u) Pip

(c) (i) The title of Silko's novel, *Ceremony*.

Or

(ii) Betonie.

(d) (i) "Walt Whitman, a kosmos, of Manhattan the son,
Turbulent, fleshy, sensual, eating, drinking
and breeding,
No sentimentalist, no stander above men and
women or apart from them,
No more modest then immodest"

Or

(u) The conclusion of "Song of Myself"

- (e) (i) "There in cold air
Lying still where her hand had thrown me,
I tasted the mud that splattered my lips:
The seeds of a forest were in it,
Asleep and growing! I tasted
Her power!"

Or

- (u) The African-American's subversive look at the American Dream in "Harlem."
- (f) (i) ". Here individuals of all nations are melted into a new race of men, whose labors and posterity will one day cause great changes in the world. ... The Americans were once scattered all over Europe, here they are incorporated into one of the finest systems of populations which has ever appeared, and which will hereafter become distinct by the power of the different climates they inhabit."

Or

- (ii) Frederick Douglass' account of the legal protection provided to the 'negroes' in the United States of America before the Civil War.
2. (a) How does Hawthorne's position as a Surveyor of the Revenue in the custom-house in Salem, Massachusetts in the nineteenth century enable him

to acquire a sympathetic understanding of the seventeenth century New England predicament of Hester Prynne. Comment with reference to the essay entitled "The Custom-House" which prefaces *The Scarlet Letter*.

Or

(b) "Hester Prynne imbibed this spirit." What "spirit", according to Hawthorne, has Hester Prynne "imbibed"? How does this "spirit" shape her life story?

3 (a) "The whiteness of the whale that Ahab pursues with monomaniacal intensity is in sharp contrast to the many-hued complexions of the crew of his ship" Comment

Or

(b) "Ahab is both the hero and the villain of *Moby Dick*." Do you agree? Give a reasoned answer.

4. (a) Write an essay on the celebration of cultural hybridity in *Ceremony*.

Or

(b) "You don't have anything if you don't have the stories" In what way does Silko use storytelling as a defining metaphor for the need to recover Native American culture and history?

- 5 (a) Comment on grass as an appropriate symbol of American democracy in "Song of Myself".

Or

- (b) "What is commonest, cheapest, nearest, easiest is Me." In his project of a democratic America in "Song of Myself", Whitman's sympathies clearly reside with those on the fringes of American democracy.
6. (a) "Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* constitutes a savage, satirical indictment of the American cultural milieu of the 1960s." Discuss.

Or

- (b) Is *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* an example of the theatre of the absurd or a critique of the premises of this theatre? Give a reasoned answer.