

17MENC14 American Literature

Part A

Choose the correct Answer

10 X ½ = 5

1. *The History Man* is a novel written by -----  
a. Malcolm Bradbury b. Richard Ruland c. Hugh Kenner d. Gertrude Stein
2. The Puritan imagination, it was acknowledged, was central to the nature of ----- writing.  
a. British b. American c. Scottish d. French
3. American writers and critics took many generations to come to terms with the implications of -----.  
a. Catholicism b. Protestantism c. Puritanism d. Episcopalia
4. *Like girls on hands and knees that throw their hair  
Before them over their heads to dry in the sun.*  
The above lines are taken from -----  
a. When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd      b. The Road not Taken  
c. Mending Wall      d. Birches
5. "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd" is a long poem written in the form of an elegy on the death of -----  
a. Abraham Lincoln      b. John F. Kennedy  
c. Woodrow Wilson      d. Theodore Roosevelt
6. According to Whitman, the entire country ( America) is in a state of mourning because of -----.  
a. The World War and the Unrest  
b. The Civil War and the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln  
c. The killing of soldiers and famine.  
d. The epidemic and its effects on people
7. Thoreau's building of a house on Walden Pond is, for him, a miniature re-enactment of ----- creation of the world.  
a. Man's      b. God's      c. Mount Olympus'      d. Giant's
8. Thoreau is proud that he lives far from the constraining social relationships represented by -----  
a. The Post Office      b. The Town Centre      c. The Country House      d. The Theatre

9. At Walden Pond, Thoreau sees time as a river in which he -----  
 a. Dives and resurfaces b. Bathes c. Goes fishing d. Dips his toes
10. ----- is the term used by Thoreau for man's internal means of measuring the reality of things?  
 a. True Compass b. Conscience c. Medication d. Realometer

**PART B**

**5 x 4 = 20**

**Answer ALL Questions**

**Answer should not exceed 200 words or one page.**

- 11 (a) Write a short biographical note of a major American Writer of your choice.  
**Or**  
 (b) Briefly comment on Social Realism.
- 12(a) How does Whitman mourn the death of Abraham Lincoln in his elegy?  
**Or**  
 (b) *It was almost sacrilegious climbing a birch tree till it bent, till it gave and swooped to the ground, but that's what boys did in those days –*  
 Discuss in the light of your understanding of Frost's statement about Birches
- 13 (a) A miniature re-enactment of God's creation of the world is what Thoreau has been able to see in his house on Walden Pond – Elucidate.  
**Or**  
 (b) Briefly comment on John F Kennedy's *Inaugural Address*
- 14 (a) Does America encourage individual freedom at the expense of communal bonds? Are these two things ultimately incompatible?  
**Or**  
 (b) Discuss the theme of autonomy and independence in Chopin's short story, *A Pair of Silk Stockings*.
- 15 (a) Sketch the character of Joe Keller.  
**Or**  
 (b) How is the transience of life portrayed in the play, *Our Town*?

**PART- C**

**5 X 7 = 35**

**Answer ALL Questions**

**Answer should not exceed 600 words or three pages**

- 16 (a) Write elaborately on Naturalism with special reference to American Literature.  
**Or**  
 (b) Select an American Playwright and a Novelist of your choice and highlight their contributions to Literature.
- 17 (a) Critically analyse the poem, *When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd*.  
**Or**  
 (b) How does mortality face eternity in the poem, *Because I Could Not Stop for Death*?
- 18 (a) Thoreau's delight in his new building project at Walden is more than merely the pride of a first-time homeowner; it is a grandly philosophic achievement in his mind, a symbol of his conquest of being. – Elaborate. **Or**  
 (b) Critically analyse Emerson's *Self-reliance*
- 19 (a) Tommy Wilhelm in *Seize the Day* is both inspired and burdened by the American myth of success. – Discuss. **Or**  
 (b) *The Five Boons of Life* is an interesting perspective on the importance of life and priorities. The story signifies the importance of wise choices, and the importance of not squandering man's life away

- Illustrate the above statement in the light of your understanding of Mark Twain's prescribed story.

20 (a) The conflict in *All My Sons* operates on two levels: the human and the social. On the social level, Miller's play explores the need for the individual to accept social responsibility. On the human level, the play reveals the tragedy of a common man. - Appraise.

Or

(b) Critically examine the importance of companionship as delineated in the play, *Our Town*