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Reg. No.....

Name.....

B.A. DEGREE (C.B.C.S.S.) EXAMINATION, JUNE 2026

Sixth Semester

B.A. English

Core Course—AMERICAN LITERATURE

(2014—2016 Admissions—Mercy Chance)

[For Private Registration Candidates]

Time : Three Hours | Maximum Weight : 25

Instructions : *This question paper contains* **two sections**. *Answer* **Section I** *questions in the answer book provided.* **Section II Internal Examination** *questions must be answered in the* **question paper** *itself. Follow the detailed instructions given under* **Section II**.

Section I

PART A

Answer **all** *questions.*
Each bunch of **four** *questions carries a weight of* 1.

Choose the correct answer from the following :—

I. 1 According to Emerson in "Art", what is the ultimate purpose of true art ?

(a) To be an act of creation that reveals the soul of the universe.

(b) To faithfully and strictly copy the beauty found in Nature.

(c) To serve as an instrument for moral instruction and religious conversion.

(d) To record historical events with objective accuracy.

2 Where does Thoreau witness the epic battle between the ants ?

(a) By the shore of Walden pond.

(b) In his bean field.

(c) In his wood- yard or chip- yard.

(d) At the edge of the railroad.

Turn over

3 Baldwin contends that Black English is a separate language from American English because.

(a) It is the product of Black American fight for survival, which is how all languages develop.

(b) The African American people do not want to be identified with Whites in any way.

(c) It's linguistic elements are fundamentally different, just like Russian or Chinese.

(d) None of the above.

4 How do children behave while watching TV according to Kosinski ?

(a) They appear to be in a hypnotic trance, losing awareness of the surrounding.

(b) They play with their toys while watching.

(c) They cry for their mother's attention.

(d) They engage in physical activity.

II. 5 Which President is "O Captain.My Captain" based on ?

(a) Andrew Jackson. (b) George Washington.

(c) Abraham Lincoln. (d) John Adams.

6 Which of the following best describe the tone of the poem "A bird came down the walk" ?

(a) Depressed and somber. (b) Whimsical and bright.

(c) Plucky and determined. (d) Cautious and curious.

7 What is the central theme of Frost's poem "Reluctance " ?

(a) The joy of returning home after a long journey.

(b) The beauty of changing summer season.

(c) The refusal to passively accept inevitable endings like death, loss or the end of love.

(d) The excitement of exploring new fields and woods.

8 What is the sister's name in "My sweet old etcetera" ?

(a) Lucy. (b) Natalie.

(c) Emily. (d) Isabel.

III. 9 What poetic form is Theodore Roethke,'s "The Waking" ?

(a) Sonnet. (b) Ballad.

(c) Villanelle. (d) Free verse.

10 What is the ball symbolic of in John Berryman's poem ?

(a) The boy's childhood and innocence.

(b) Materialistic wealth.

(c) The poet's lost youth.

(d) A new game.

11 In contrast to Mary, what are the primary characteristics of Margaret's personality in "The Wives of the Dead" ?

(a) She is mild, quiet and unwavering

(b) She is of a lively and irritable temperament and expresses her sorrow passionately.

(c) She is Stoic, emotionless and suppresses all her feelings.

(d) She is incredibly optimistic and refused to believe the initial news.

12 What do the crushed petunias symbolically represent to the young man ?

(a) A barrier to freedom and vibrant living.

(b) A tribute to the local police department.

(c) proof of a severe winter storm.

(d) An offering to the Town Mayor.

IV. 13 What does the term "mammon" represent in the story's title "Mammon and the Archer" ?

(a) A mythological archer.

(b) Wealth and material possession.

(c) The protagonist's aunt.

(d) The name of the soap factory.

Turn over

14 One of the main characters in "A clean, well- lighted place" is ——————————.

(a) A blind man.
(b) A deaf man
(c) A dumb man.
(d) None of the above.

15 What is the setting of the play "Sorry, Wrong Number" ?

(a) A rural farm house in Ohio.
(b) 53 N Sutton place, New York.
(c) A hotel room in Boston.
(d) A quiet suburban street in Chicago.

16 What are the five gifts offered by the fairy to the young man in "Five boons of life" ?

(a) Wealth, health, beauty, youth and death.
(b) Fame, love, riches, pleasure and death.
(c) Glory, power, joy, peace and death.
(d) Honor, wealth, wisdom, strength and death.

(4 × 1 = 4)

Part B

Answer any **five** *of the following questions each in a sentence* **or** *two.*
Each question carries a weight of 1.

17 What historical battle does Thoreau compare the battles of ants to ?

18 How does Baldwin view White Americans ?

19 How does TV become a harmful addiction to children according to Kosinski ?

20 Why do you think the speaker in the poem "O Captain My Captain" put his arm under the captain's head ?

21 What did the bird do first after coming down the walk in Emily Dickinson's Poem ?

22 What is the theme of "The wives of the Dead" ?

23 How does Dorothy change by the end of the play "A case of crushed petunias" ?

24 How does the ending of "Mammon and the Archer" show O Henry's classic twist ?

(5 × 1 = 5)

Part C

Answer any **four** *of the following questions each in about* 100 *words.*
Each question carries a weight of 2.

25 How is war shown as meaningless by Thoreau ?

26 How does Baldwin set an antagonistic tone in the opening passage and why does he claim the argument is about societal control rather than words ?

27 When Jerzy Kosinski says, "HE CAN NOT THINK — HE ONLY SEES", what does he refer to ?

28 What do the Canary and petunias represent in "A Case of crushed petunias" ?

29 The irony in Mrs Maalard's story.

30 How does the flashback to Druse's home life establish the story's core conflict ?

(4 × 2 = 8)

Part D

Answer any **two** *of the following questions each in about* 300 *words.*
Each question carries a weight of 4.

31 Discuss the theme of passive escapism in the poem "Miniver Cheevy". How does Robinson critique individuals who blame their era for their personal failures ?

32 Examine the irony and deeper significance of the title "The million year picnic". How does the concept of a picnic contrast with the reality of global annihilation ?

33 How does the title "Sorry Wrong Number" reflect a deeper thematic message about human disconnection and fatal errors in communication ?

(2 × 4 = 8)