

Seat No. : \_\_\_\_\_

**MAX-09**  
**ENGLISH Paper VIII-A**  
**American Literature**

**Time : 3 Hours]**

**[Total Marks : 100**

- Instructions :** (1) All questions carry equal marks.  
(2) Attempt **all** questions.

I. (a) Critically comment upon the significance of the international theme in The Portrait of a Lady.

**OR**

I. (a) “I can’t change that way .... I married him before all the world; I was perfectly free; it was impossible to do anything more deliberate. One can’t change that way.” In the light of the above statement, comment upon the ending of the novel The Portrait of a Lady.

I. (b) The central thrust of Bellow’s fiction is to deny nihilism, immoralism, and the aesthetic view...“Where the artist-hero sought isolation, the Bellow protagonist longs for community.....”. Comment upon this statement with reference to Herzog.

**OR**

I. (b) Write a critical essay on the narrative technique of Herzog with special reference to the epistolary form.

II. (a) Discuss Celie’s growth from a mute character to an articulate individual with a need for self-expression in The Color Purple .

**OR**

II. (a) Comment on the female bonding in The Color Purple which eventually leads to liberation and gives a new meaning to the lives of the women.

II. (b) Critically comment upon Ephraim Cabot as a tragic protagonist.

**OR**

II. (b) “Desire Under the Elms is an extensive exploration of O’Neill’s view of the father–son battle / symbolic incest theme.” Discuss.

III. (a) Critically comment upon the significance of the title Cat on a Hot Tin Roof.

**OR**

III. (a) “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof centres upon family continuity and the bestowal of property, and emphasizes the economic tenor of modern plantation life.” Discuss.

III. (b) Buried Child is conceived on a mythic plane. Discuss.

**OR**

IV. (b) Show how Sam Shepard unfolds the violent and incestuous family secrets of three generations of Illinois farmers in Buried Child.

IV. (a) Comment upon the theme of imagination as an ordering principle in the poetry of Stevens.

**OR**

IV. (a) Discuss Wallace Stevens as a modern poet.

IV. (b) With reference to any **two** poems show how Emily Dickinson expresses the fundamental disharmonies of life.

**OR**

IV. (b) The dominant motive in Dickinson’s “child” poems is self-preservation. Comment with examples.

V. Show your acquaintance with any **four** of the following :

The Scarlet Letter

For Whom the Bell Tolls

Strange Interlude

Death of a Salesman

Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

Ariel

Walden

The Glass Menagerie

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