



ஸ்ரீ-ல-ஸ்ரீ காசிவாசி சுவாமிநாத சுவாமிகள் கலைக் கல்லூரி
தருப்பனந்தாள் - 612504

S.K.S.S ARTS COLLEGE, THIRUPPANANDAL - 612504



QUESTION BANK

Title of the Paper

AMERICAN LITERATURE

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Course: III B.A (ENG)

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CORE COURSE XI
AMERICAN LITERATURE

Objectives :

To introduce learners to important aspects in various genres of American literature To help learners get acquainted with the richness of American literature through representative works of poets, essayists and novelists

Unit – I :

Poetry Walt Whitman : “I Hear America Singing”

Emily Dickinson : “A Bird Came Down the Walk”

Unit – II :

Poetry Robert Frost : “Mending Wall”

Sylvia Plath : “Lady Lazarus”

Unit – III :

Prose Martin Luther King : “I Have a Dream”

Ralph Waldo Emerson : “The American Scholar”

Unit– IV :

Drama Arthur Miller : Death of a Salesman

Unit– V :

Fiction Nathaniel Hawthorne : The Scarlet Letter



AMERICAN LITERATURE

B.A (III YEAR)

Unit –I

Choice questions

1. The poem, 'I Hear America singing' is written by whom?
 - a. Robert Frost
 - b. Walt Whitman
 - c. Sylvia Plath
 - d. Arthur miller
2. Whitman pays tribute to which country in this poem 'I Hear America singing'?
 - a. England
 - b. America
 - c. India
 - d. News land
3. When do these people sing?
 - a. While sleeping
 - b. When they are idle
 - c. When they are engaged in their works
 - d. Leaves their work
4. What picture of America does the poem present?
 - a. might
 - b. wealthy
 - c. robust and healthy
 - d. strong
5. The deckhand is the assistant of whom?
 - a. The hatter
 - b. the boatman
 - c. the mechanic
 - d. The carpenters
6. What did the bird drink?
 - a. liquor
 - b. water
 - c. dew
 - d. snow
7. The bird was -----to the beetle
 - a. Rude
 - b. Courteous
 - c. Genuine

- d. Friendly
8. Emily Dickinson saw a -----coming down the walk
- a. Bird
 - b. (b)Fly
 - c. Butterfly
 - d. Spider
9. What did the bird eat?
- a. An angle worm
 - b. A rat
 - c. A insects
 - d. A butterfly
10. Did the bird offer?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Not sure
 - d. Sure

ANSWERS:(1b, 2b, 3c, 4c, 5b, 6c, 7b, 8a, 9a, 10b)

Short questions

11. What does Walt Whitman hear?
12. How does Walt Whitman describe the ploughboy's singing?
13. When do the girls sing?
14. What is Whitman's Opinion about these people?
15. When does the mason sing?
16. What did Emily Dickinson see?
17. "They looked like fright beads" Explain "frightened beads"?
18. Why did the bird hop sideways?
19. What did Emily Dickinson think of the bird?
20. Why did the bird reject the crumb?

Paragraph questions

21. How does Whitman pay a tribute to his motherland?
22. According to Whitman, who constitute America?
23. How does Whitman celebrate the unity of American in his poem "I Hear America singing"?
24. Write short notes on the varied carols that Whitman hear.
25. Bring out the central idea of the poem "I Hear America singing".
26. After eating the worm, what did the bird do?
27. Why did the bird reject the crumb offered by the poetess?

28. Bring out the theme of the poem, "A bird came down the walk".
29. Describe the flight of the bird.
30. Show the poem, 'A bird came down the walk' as a natural poem.

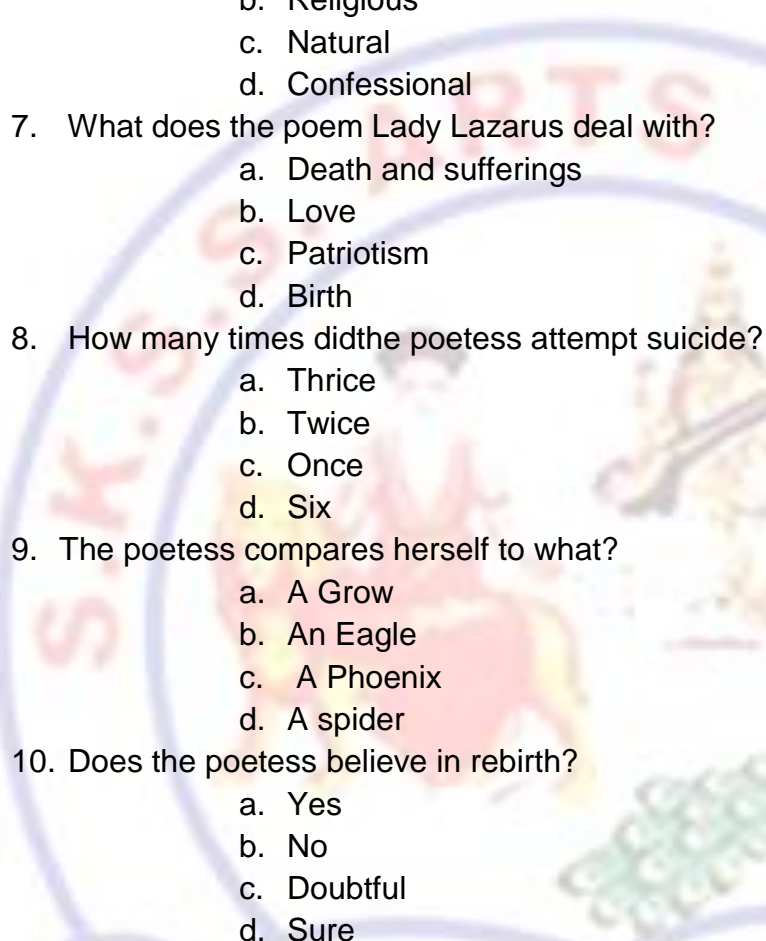
Essay questions

31. Write an essay on "I Hear America singing" by Walt Whitman.
32. A critical appreciation of "I Hear America singing".
33. Give a critical analysis of the poem "I Hear America singing" by Walt Whitman.
34. Describe the poem "I Hear America singing".
35. Write a detailed summary of Walt Whitman's "I Hear America singing".
36. Attempt a critical appreciation of the poem "A Bird came down the walk".
37. Critical analysis of the poem "A bird came down the walk".
38. Write a detailed summary of Emily Dickinson's "A bird came down the walk".
39. Describe the bird's movements.
40. Give a brief summary of Emily Dickinson's "A bird came down the walk".

Unit –II

Choice questions

1. When are the walls between the farms repaired? During the
 - a. Spring
 - b. Summer
 - c. Autumn
 - d. Winter
2. Where does the neighbor live?
 - a. In the city
 - b. On the mountain
 - c. Beyond the hill
 - d. In the village
3. What trees grow in the neighbor's farm?
 - a. Oak
 - b. Pine
 - c. Apple
 - d. Orange
4. Who feels that there is no need for a wall?
 - a. The poet
 - b. The neighbor
 - c. The reader
 - d. The mother
5. Who insists that 'Good fences make good neighbors'?
 - a. The neighbor

- 
- b. The poet
 - c. The mother
 - d. The reader
6. What type of poem is "Lady Lazarus"?
- a. Philosophical
 - b. Religious
 - c. Natural
 - d. Confessional
7. What does the poem Lady Lazarus deal with?
- a. Death and sufferings
 - b. Love
 - c. Patriotism
 - d. Birth
8. How many times did the poetess attempt suicide?
- a. Thrice
 - b. Twice
 - c. Once
 - d. Six
9. The poetess compares herself to what?
- a. A Crow
 - b. An Eagle
 - c. A Phoenix
 - d. A spider
10. Does the poetess believe in rebirth?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Doubtful
 - d. Sure

ANSWER: (1-a, 2-c, 3-b, 4-a, 5-a, 6-d, 7-a, 8-a, 9-c, 10-a)

Short questions

- 11. Where do the rabbits hide when chased by the dogs?
- 12. According to the poet who does not love a wall?
- 13. What is the belief of the neighbor?
- 14. "We do not need the wall", why does Frost feel so?
- 15. What grows in the neighbor's farm?
- 16. Who is Lazarus?
- 17. What does Plath think of death?
- 18. What is Plath's opinion about suicide?

19. What type of poem is 'Lady Lazarus'?
20. What is the warning given by Sylvia Plath?

Paragraph questions

21. Why does the poet feel that a wall between their farms is unnecessary?
22. Bring out the idea of integration in the poem "Mending wall"?
23. Write a short note on the neighbor?
24. How does the neighbor know about the Damage in the wall?
25. What is the theme of the Robert frost's "Mending wall"?
26. How does the poetess conclude the poem, 'Lady Lazarus'?
27. Describe Sylvia Plath's second suicide attempt?
28. Bring out the mythological and biblical references in the poem, 'Lady Lazarus'?
29. Write a critical note on Sylvia Plath's 'Lady Lazarus'?
30. Write a note on the horror referred to in the poem 'Lady Lazarus'.

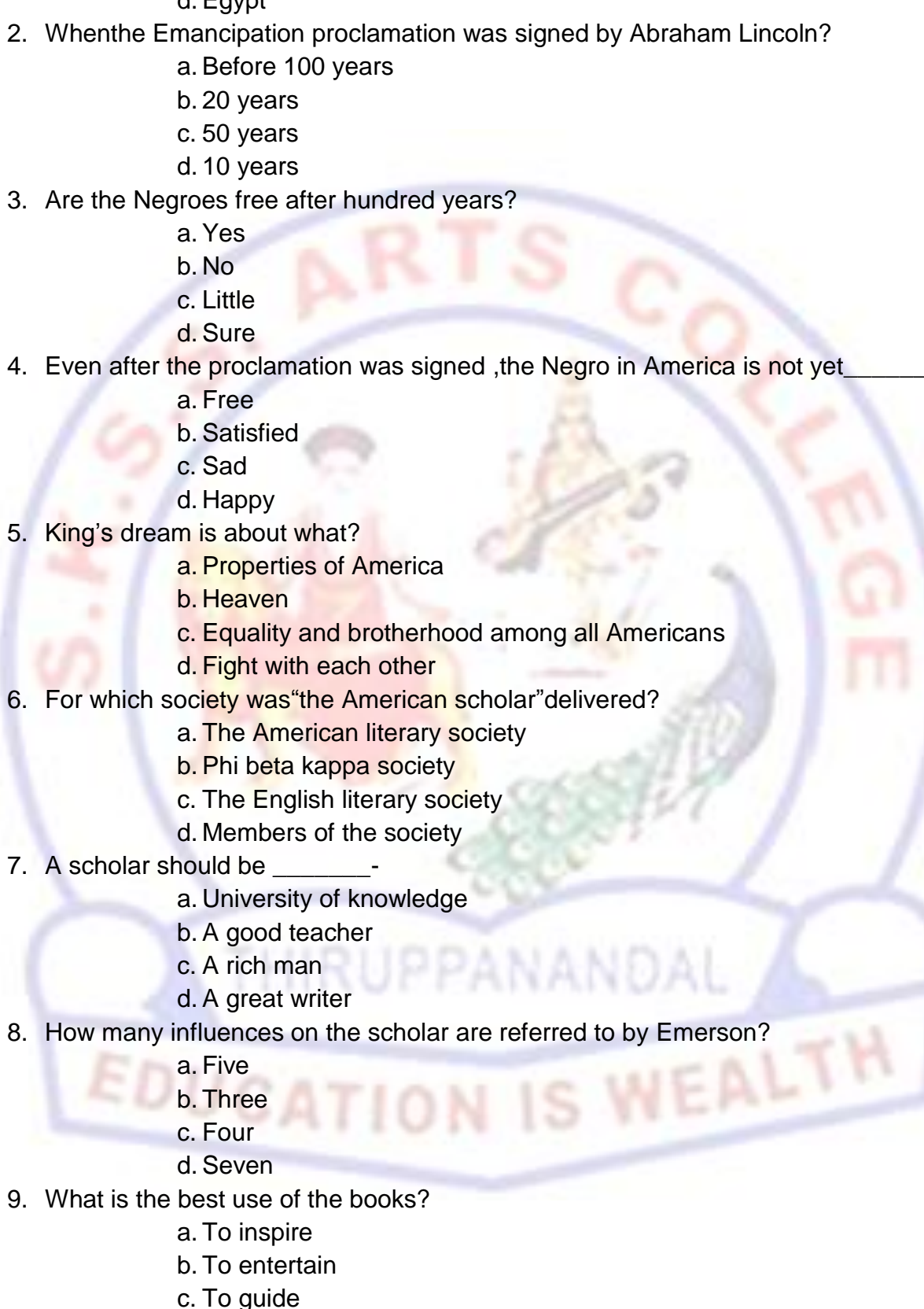
Essay questions

31. Critically analyses Robert frost's poem 'Mending wall'?
32. Explain the role of the mystical elements in "Mending wall"?
33. Describe the poem 'Mending wall'?
34. Write a detailed summary of Robert frost's "Mending wall"?
35. Give a critical analysis of the poem, "Mending wall" by Robert frost?
36. Bring out the autobiographical elements in, 'Lady Lazarus'?
37. Bring out the reference to the Jewish victims in the poem 'Lady Lazarus'.
38. Give an account of the imagery used in the poem, 'Lady Lazarus'?
39. Bring out the oppression, agony and death presented in Sylvia Plath's poem, 'Lady Lazarus'?
40. A critical appreciation of the poem 'Lady Lazarus'?

Unit – III

Choices questions

1. Martin Luther King Jr. is worried about the existing slavery of the Negroes of which Nation.
 - a. America
 - b. Africa
 - c. New Zealand

- 
- d. Egypt
2. When the Emancipation proclamation was signed by Abraham Lincoln?
- Before 100 years
 - 20 years
 - 50 years
 - 10 years
3. Are the Negroes free after hundred years?
- Yes
 - No
 - Little
 - Sure
4. Even after the proclamation was signed, the Negro in America is not yet _____
- Free
 - Satisfied
 - Sad
 - Happy
5. King's dream is about what?
- Properties of America
 - Heaven
 - Equality and brotherhood among all Americans
 - Fight with each other
6. For which society was "the American scholar" delivered?
- The American literary society
 - Phi beta kappa society
 - The English literary society
 - Members of the society
7. A scholar should be _____ -
- University of knowledge
 - A good teacher
 - A rich man
 - A great writer
8. How many influences on the scholar are referred to by Emerson?
- Five
 - Three
 - Four
 - Seven
9. What is the best use of the books?
- To inspire
 - To entertain
 - To guide

- d. To give knowledge
10. According to Emerson, who is the world's eye and world's heart?
- a. The common man
 - b. The American scholar
 - c. The great writer
 - d. The true master

Answers (1-a, 2-a, 3-b, 4-a, 5-c, 6-b, 7-a, 8-b, 9-a, 10-b)

Short questions

- 11. Why did king address the people?
- 12. What was king's dream about?
- 13. When would the Negro be satisfied?
- 14. What is the message of king's speech?
- 15. Why did king say that all men should receive equal opportunity?
- 16. Where did Emerson deliver the lecture the American scholar?
- 17. How is the lecture the American Scholar called otherwise?
- 18. What is Emerson's view about action?
- 19. How is self-trust important for the scholar?
- 20. What are the sources of the education of the scholar?

Paragraph questions

- 21. Bring out the salient feature of the first part of king's speech.
- 22. Why did the king not want the people to look back?
- 23. How does king's speech relate to dreams?
- 24. Write a critical note on Martin Luther King Jr. "I have a dream"
- 25. How did king make his speech persuasive?
- 26. Give an account on the duties of a scholar as directed by Emerson.
- 27. Bring out the influence of books on the scholar.
- 28. What is Emerson's purpose in delivering the lecture the American Scholar?
- 29. What does Emerson mean by foreign harvests?
- 30. Explain the influence of Nature?

Essay question

- 31. Bring out the means of racial peace and harmony as proposed by martin Luther King Jr.
- 32. Give a brief summary of Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream"
- 33. Write an essay on I Have a dream by martin Luther king Jr.
- 34. Attempt a critical analysis of martin Luther king speech "I have a dream.
- 35. Write a detailed summary of martin Luther king "I have a dream"

36. Comment on the construction of the essay The American Scholar.
37. How does Emerson identify the presence of bond between man and nature?
38. Bring out the ideas expressed by Emerson in the essay American scholar.
39. write a detailed summary of Ralph Waldo Emerson's "The American Scholar".
40. Explain the influence of action on the scholar.

Unit – IV

Choice questions

1. Who is the hero of the play "Death of a salesman"?
 - a. Willy Loman
 - b. Biff Loman
 - c. Happy Loman
 - d. Linda Loman
2. What is the job of Willy Loman?
 - a. Teacher
 - b. Salesman
 - c. Advocate
 - d. Doctor
3. Who is Willy's favorite child?
 - a. Ben
 - b. Biff
 - c. Happy
 - d. Bernard
4. How old is Willy Loman?
 - a. 48 years
 - b. 34 years
 - c. 63 years
 - d. 50 years
5. What happened to Willy's old employer Wagner?
 - a. Dead
 - b. Sick
 - c. Gone abroad
 - d. Accident
6. Who is Willy's new employer?
 - a. Charley
 - b. Bernard
 - c. Howard
 - d. Ben
7. What is the age of Biff Loman?
 - a. 17 years

- b. 34 years
 - c. 22 years
 - d. 40 years
8. How did the boy Biff get the new food ball?
- a. Bought
 - b. Borrowed
 - c. Stole
 - d. Win
9. Bernard is now a successful_____
- a. Doctor
 - b. Politician
 - c. Advocate
 - d. Teacher
10. How did Willy die?
- a. Murdered
 - b. Kill himself
 - c. Dies naturally
 - d. Hanging himself

Answer(1-a, 2-b, 3-b, 4-c 5-a, 6-c, 7-b, 8-c 9-c 10-b)

Short questions

- 11. Why is Willy Loman worried?
- 12. What does Biff decide to do?
- 13. What is Willy's opinion about his brother Ben?
- 14. How did Ben go to Africa?
- 15. What is meant by expressionism?
- 16. What did Linda ask Biff to do?
- 17. Why was Willy fired out of his job?
- 18. What are the two failures met by Willy Loman that day?
- 19. What was Ben's father?
- 20. How does Charley help Willy?

Paragraph questions

- 21. Describe Willy Loman's end.
- 22. What are the two failures met by Willy Loman that day?
- 23. Comment on the themes of the play Death of a salesman.
- 24. Sketch the character of Willy Loman.

25. Why does Biff hate his father?
26. Describe Willy's first suicide attempt.
27. Write short notes on the technique used in Death of a salesman.
28. Discuss death of a salesman as a realistic play.
29. Write a critical note on Arthur Miller's Death of a salesman.
30. Attempt a character sketch on Linda Loman.

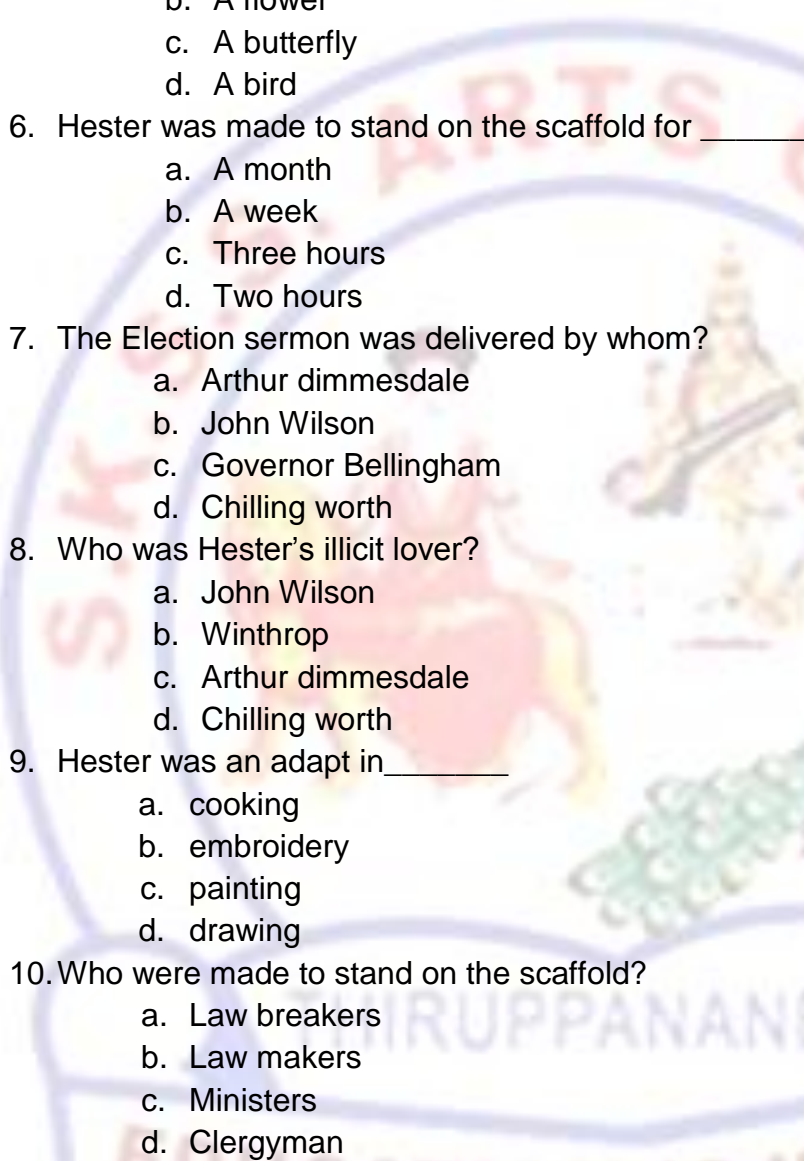
Essay questions

31. Comment on the dramatic techniques used in Miller's Death of a salesman.
32. Discuss death of a salesman as a tragedy.
33. Bring out the symbolic elements in the play "Death of a salesman"
34. Show "Death of a salesman" as a quest for values and for identity.
35. Explain the relationship between Willy Loman and Happy Loman.
36. Write an essay on the character of Bernard.
37. Write a detailed summary of the play "Death of a salesman"
38. Attempt a critical appreciation of the play Death of a salesman by Arthur Miller.
39. Bring out the significance of the Requiem in Death of a salesman.
40. Give a critical analysis of the play death of a salesman.

UNIT-V

Choice questions

1. In which city does the story take place?
 - a. New England
 - b. Washington
 - c. New Zealand
 - d. Boston
2. Who is the heroine of the novel?
 - a. Linda
 - b. Hester Prynne
 - c. Pearl
 - d. Hibbing
3. The novel "Scarlet Letter" is written by whom?
 - a. Hemingway
 - b. Allan Poe
 - c. Nathaniel Hawthorne
 - d. Arthur Miller
4. Who is Hester Prynne's husband?
 - a. Arthur Dimmesdale

- 
- b. John Wilson
 - c. Roger chillingworth
 - d. Bellingham
5. What was embroidered on Hester's bodice?
- a. The scarlet letter "A"
 - b. A flower
 - c. A butterfly
 - d. A bird
6. Hester was made to stand on the scaffold for _____
- a. A month
 - b. A week
 - c. Three hours
 - d. Two hours
7. The Election sermon was delivered by whom?
- a. Arthur dimmesdale
 - b. John Wilson
 - c. Governor Bellingham
 - d. Chilling worth
8. Who was Hester's illicit lover?
- a. John Wilson
 - b. Winthrop
 - c. Arthur dimmesdale
 - d. Chilling worth
9. Hester was an adapt in _____
- a. cooking
 - b. embroidery
 - c. painting
 - d. drawing
10. Who were made to stand on the scaffold?
- a. Law breakers
 - b. Law makers
 - c. Ministers
 - d. Clergyman

Answers (1-d, 2-b, 3-c, 4-c, 5-a, 6-c, 7-a, 8-c, 9-b, 10-a)

Short questions

- 11. How does Hester Prynne earn her living?
- 12. Why was Hester Prynne sent to the prison?
- 13. What did John Wilson ask Hester to do?
- 14. Why did Hester call her daughter Pearl?

15. What did Dimmesdale see in the sky, when he stood on the scaffold in the night?
16. How did Hester earn her livelihood?
17. What was the cause of Dimmesdale's illness?
18. What request did Hester make to Roger Chillingworth?
19. What was the new connotation of the scarlet letter "A"?
20. How did the people look at Hester after seven years?

Paragraph questions

21. Comment on the scaffold scene in "The Scarlet Letter".
22. Write a note on the custom house.
23. Bring out the significance of the forest scene in the Scarlet Letter.
24. What was the role played by Governor Bellingham in the Scarlet Letter?
25. Sketch the character of Arthur Dimmesdale.
26. Write short notes on Mistress Hibbing.
27. Critically examine the Scarlet Letter as a tragedy.
28. Write short notes on the symbols used in the novel the Scarlet Letter.
29. What was the punishment given to Hester for her sin of adultery?
30. Describe briefly Hester Prynne's relationship with Roger Chillingworth.

Essay questions

31. Consider "The Scarlet Letter" as a psychological novel.
32. Bring out the themes in the novel the Scarlet Letter.
33. Attempt a critical appreciation of the novel the Scarlet Letter.
34. Discuss the significance of the character Pearl in the novel the Scarlet Letter.
35. Explain the role played by Governor Bellingham in "The Scarlet Letter".
36. Bring out the significance of the character of John Wilson.
37. Give a brief summary of Nathaniel Hawthorne's the Scarlet Letter.
38. Write a critical summary on symbolism in the Scarlet Letter.
39. Make an analysis of the conflict in the Scarlet Letter.
40. The theme of the novel "the Scarlet Letter" is sin crime and punishment elaborate.