

D.K.M.COLLEGE FOR WOMEN (AUTONOMOUS), VELLORE-1.

AFRO – AMERICAN LITERATURE

III B.A.ENGLISH

15CEN6A

UNIT I: INTRODUCTION

SECTION-A

2 MARKS

- 1) Define Afro - American Literature.
- 2) At which period Afro - American Literature was initiated?
- 3) Where does Afro – American Literature was launched first?
- 4) Which proposition does the earliest African American writers sought to demonstrate?
- 5) Who was Phillis Wheatley?
- 6) Who wrote [The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass](#)?
- 7) Define spiritual narratives.
- 8) Who was an original founder of NAACP?
- 9) Write any two works of [Booker T. Washington](#).
- 10) Who wrote [“Their Eyes Were Watching God”](#)?

SECTION-B

5 MARKS

- 1) Define Slave narratives.
- 2) What is mean by Post – Slavery era?
- 3) Explain briefly about the period of Harlem Renaissance.
- 4) Given an account of the Civil Right Movement.
- 5) Write briefly about the growth of fiction during Harlem Renaissance.
- 6) How does people showed their response to Literature during Post - Slavery era?
- 7) Write a short note on Booker T. Washington’s contribution towards Literature.

SECTION-C

10 MARKS

- 1) Compare and contrast Spiritual Narrative with Slave Narrative.
- 2) Write a detail description of the history of Harlem Renaissance.
- 3) Give an account of Civil Rights Movement.

UNIT II POETRY**SECTION-A****2 MARKS**

- 1) Write an argument which Phillis Wheatley had in her poem "To the university of Cambridge".
- 2) Which college was mentioned by Phillis Wheatley in "To the university of Cambridge"?
- 3) What are the two major notes that Wheatley strikes repeatedly in the poem "To the university of Cambridge"?
- 4) Who is the author of the poem "O black and unknown bards"?
- 5) Why the speaker of the poem "O black and unknown bards" got wonder?
- 6) What is the meaning of the word Harlem?
- 7) What is the poem "Harlem" dreams about?
- 8) In your experience, what happens to a dream deferred?
- 9) Does the poem "The Mother" take a political stance on abortion?
- 10) Write three theme of the poem "The Mother".

SECTION-B**5 MARKS**

- 1) Write short summary of the poem "To the university of Cambridge".
- 2) Why does Phillis Wheatley draws her attention towards race and servitude?
- 3) Explain the second stanza of the poem "O black and unknown bards" as "A Free Ranging Spirit".
- 4) Why the speaker again and again stress The Fiery Spirit of Servitude in the poem "O black and unknown bards"?
- 5) Why do you think Langston Hughes structured this poem in the way he did?
- 6) Why do you think Lorraine Hansberry took the title of her play A Raisin in the Sun from this poem?
- 7) Is "the mother" of the poem really a mother? How can you tell?
- 8) What are the effects of the poem's changing mode of address?

SECTION-C**10 MARKS**

- 1) Critically analysis the poem "To the University of Cambridge"
- 2) Explain the poem "O black and unknown bards"
- 3) Why does our speaker answer questions with questions?

- 4) Hughes was influenced by the poets Walt Whitman, Carl Sandburg, Paul Laurence Dunbar, and Claude McKay. Can you detect these influences in this poem or in other poems written by Hughes?
- 5) What does the poem say about the limits of language?
- 6) Do you think that the speaker regrets having had an abortion? Why or why not?

UNIT III:

2 MARKS:

- 1) What is the tone of the ESSAY How It Feels to Be Colored Me?
- 2) How It Feels to Be Colored Me first published in?
- 3) Who is Zora Neale Hurston?
- 4) When did James Baldwin Write Notes of a Native Son?
- 5) What is the setting of native son?
- 6) When was Notes of a Native Son published?
- 7) Where is James Baldwin?
- 8) Who wrote Enter the New Negro?

5 MARKS:

- 1) Hurston offers multiple definitions of her sense of what it means to be African-American or “colored” (the commonly used term of the day). Identify the different ways she experiences racial identity and contrast the major ones.
- 2) For Hurston, what is the relationship between place and identity? Use examples from the essay to support your discussion.
- 3) Write a short summary of “Notes of a native son”.
- 4) Give a Stylistic analysis of the essay “Enter the new negro”.

10 MARKS:

- 1) Discuss Hurston’s perspective on whites. How is her perspective different from the usual perspectives of whites as dominant?
- 2) Identify at least one important symbol in the essay. How does Hurston use this symbol to support her arguments.

- 3) Explain the theme of fate and freewill in the essay "Notes of a Native Son".
- 4) Give an critical appreciation of the essay "Notes of a Native Son".
- 5) Discuss the thematic analysis of the essay "Enter the New Negro".

UNIT IV:

2 MARKS:

- 1) Why do they call it a raisin in the sun?
- 2) In what neighbourhood and city does the play take place?
- 3) What does Walter Lee want to do with his father's life insurance money?
- 4) To which neighbourhood do the Youngers want to move?
- 5) To whom does Walter lose \$6,500 of the inheritance?
- 6) What does Beneatha receive from George Murchison?
- 7) Who is the only white character in the play?
- 8) What does Beneatha think that George Murchison has forgotten about?
- 9) How does Travis, Walter's son, earn money?
- 10) About how old is Ruth Younger, Walter's wife?
- 11) Walter Lee is characterized primarily as a ___?

5 MARKS:

- 1) Describe the setting and consider its relevance to the action of the play "A Raisin in the Sun".
- 2) Analyze the relationship between Mama and her children.
- 3) To what extent does this play "A Raisin in the Sun" drawn on the contemporary issue of segregation?
- 4) Consider the changes that Walter undergoes as the play progresses.
- 5) Consider how "A Raisin in the Sun" challenges racism.
- 6) Discuss Travis' importance to some of the prominent themes throughout the play.
- 7) How do you think Lorraine Hansberry's own life influenced A Raisin in the Sun?
- 8) Sketch the character of Ruth Younger.

- 9) Explain the strong motif of Afrocentrism throughout the play "A Raisin in the Sun".
- 10) Given an account of the theme of American Dreams present in the play "A Raisin in the Sun".

10 MARKS:

- 1) Discuss the three generations of women are represented in "A Raisin in the Sun".
- 2) Critically analysis the play "A Raisin in the Sun" is comes under Female Gender Identity.
- 3) The American dream means something different to each character in A Raisin in the Sun. Discuss these differences and how they conflict with one another.
- 4) Within the Younger household, there are three generations of women. Compare and contrast how the characters each form their unique identities.
- 5) Discuss the ways in which the idea of integration is presented throughout the play. Is Hansberry's presentation one-sided, or does she raise issues relevant to both viewpoints?
- 6) Discuss how the Youngers' environment impacts their life.

UNIT V:

2 MARKS:

- 1) What is the moral of Their Eyes Were Watching God?
- 2) What is the genre of the book Their Eyes Were Watching God?
- 3) What is Janie's primary goal?
- 4) What is the most important sign of Janie's development?
- 5) Why is Janie initially attracted to Jody Starks?
- 6) What role does Tea Cake play in Janie's life?
- 7) What is the most important factor in Jody's self-image?
- 8) What is the name of Aibileen's dead son?
- 9) What does Hilly call her crusade to create separate bathrooms for the help?
- 10) What does Aibileen write every night?

- 11) Where did Celia Foote grow up?
- 12) What does Celia ask Minny to teach her?
- 13) What was the only job that Skeeter applied to during her senior year?
- 14) What is Elaine Stein's position at Harper & Row publishers?
- 15) Where is Skeeter's first job out of college?
- 16) What is Sethe's most striking characteristic?
- 17) Sethe considers Denver to be a ____ child.
- 18) According to most of the characters in the book, what is Beloved?
- 19) What is the name of the plantation where Sethe and Paul D first met?
- 20) What does Paul D do the first night he comes to 124?
- 21) Who murdered Sethe's first daughter?

5 MARKS:

- 1) Sketch a character of Janie.
- 2) Who is Jody and explain his relationship with Janie?
- 3) Explain the significance of the title "Their Eyes were Watching God".
- 4) How does the novel "The Help" consider as a very critical one of the organized racial segregation of the 1960s?
- 5) Why does the author choose to write Chapter 25 in the novel "The Help" in the third person?
- 6) Choose two characters from the novel "The Help" and compare the types of sexism that they struggle with.
- 7) How does Beloved function as an alter ego for Sethe?
- 8) How can Sethe and Paul D be seen as perpetual fugitives?
- 9) Sketch a character of Ben
- 10) Sketch a character of Edda.
- 11) Explain the theme of The Search for a Home in the novel "The Women of Brewster Place".

10 MARKS:

- 1) Why might Wright have objected to Their Eyes Were Watching God? Do you agree or disagree with Wright's interpretation of the novel?

- 2) Discuss the idea of the horizon in the *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. What does it symbolize for Janie?
- 3) Compare and contrast Janie's three marriages. What initially pulls her to each of the three men? How do they differ from one another? What does she learn from each experience?
- 4) Why does Jody need to be in control of everyone around him? How does Janie threaten Jody and his sense of control?
- 5) The novel depicts very warm relationships between black maids and the white children they care for - Aibileen and Mae Mobley, Constantine and Skeeter.
- 6) Why does Skeeter give Stuart a second chance after their first date was so disastrous?
- 7) *The Help* is often praised for its well-rounded, complex characters. How does the author create such characters, and what sorts of literary strategies does she use? Focus your analysis on one character.
- 8) How do the reactions of the characters in *The Help* compare to the reactions of real people? Explain.
- 9) One could say that the community judges Sethe harshly out of a desire to displace its own guilt. What evidence would support such a conclusion?
- 10) Critically analysis of the novel "*Beloved*".
- 11) Give a detail description of the novel "*The Women of Brewster Place*".
- 12) Write detail summary of the women of Brewster place.