****

Register Number:

**DATE: 16-04-2019**

**ST. JOSEPH’S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), BANGALORE- 27**

**MA ENGLISH- IV SEMESTER**

**END SEMESTER EXAMINATION- APRIL 2019**

**ENDE 0314 - American Literature- II**

**Time: 2 ½ hours**  **Max. Marks: 70**

**This question paper contains THREE sections and TWO printed pages.**

**SECTION-A**

**Answer any ONE of the following questions: (1 x 15 = 15)**

1.James Truslow Adams defines the American Dream as “a social order in which each man and each woman shall be able to attain the fullest stature to which they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are, regardless of the fortuitous circumstances of birth or position (1931)”. According to comedian, author and social critic George Carlin, “It’s called the American dream because you have be asleep to believe it.” Based on the texts you read this semester, how do you articulate your response to “the American Dream”? Use two or three works to discuss your choice.

2. Comment on the way multicultural American writers present intercultural relations using any three texts that you have read as points of reference.

**SECTION-B**

**Answer any THREE of the following questions:(3 x 15 = 45)**

3.Music functions as a vehicle of representation of American culture. Use your understanding of music by Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, Bob Dylan and Joan Baez and Negro Spirituals and the Blues, to justify your response. Do the Critiques from Beat poets and nature writers also have the same role to play? Explain.

4. What do you think short stories like Alice Walker’s “Nineteen Fifty Five” and Zora Neale Hurston’s “Sweat” have in common? Use examples from these stories to substantiate your point. Does Bharathi Mukherjee’s “A Father” operate from a different perspective? How? Explain.

5. Does Nabokov succeed in implying that Humbert is an untrustworthy narrator whose literary skills can persuade readers to overlook his deceits, manipulations, and true character? Thus, does Nabokov’s *Lolita* appear to you as a story about paedophilia, rape, and murder? Or is it really an allegory/parody of something else. Discuss.

6. How does Bellow through his central protagonist, Herzog, present the struggle of an intellectual to retain his soundness of mind? What is your understanding of Herzog’s coping tactics?

7. Comment on the way Lorraine Hansberry’s *A Raisin in the Sun* and James Baldwin’s “Sonny’s Blues”, each in its own unique way, present the struggle of working class African Americans for dignity and societal approval.

**SECTION-C**

**Write a short essay on any ONE of the following:(1 x10 =10)**

8. The struggle between individual and institution in Heller’s *Catch-22*.

9. Harlem Renaissance through Langston Hughes’ poetry.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*