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