

2025
SRMUJ
4th Semester Examination
M.A.
English
ENG-401
American Literature

Full Marks: 40

Time: 2 Hours

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks.
Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.*

1. Answer any *two* of the following questions:

5×2

- (a) How did the Puritan worldview shape early American literature?
- (b) What is the significance of the seeds Willy plants in the final act of *Death of a Salesman*?
- (c) Identify two democratic ideals presented in “Song of the Open Road.”
- (d) What psychological escape does the speaker in “Birches” seek, and how is it symbolized?

2. Answer any *three* of the following questions:

10×3

- (a) Write a note on the influence of the major historical events like the Civil War, the Great Depression, or the Vietnam War, on the formal and thematic developments in American literature.
- (b) How do the symbols in *The Old Man and the Sea* contribute to the philosophical dimension of the novella? Discuss.
- (c) Examine the role of capitalism and consumerism in shaping individual identity and failure in *Death of a Salesman*.
- (d) Robert Frost’s “The Road Not Taken” explores the complexity of decision-making and the impact of choices on life. – Discuss.
- (e) Analyse the representation of the female body and the poetics of self-annihilation in the poems of Sylvia Plath that you have read.