

**SECOND SEMESTER M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2025**  
**(Regular/Improvement/Supplementary)**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE**

**FENG2C07- AMERICAN LITERATURE**

**Time: 3 Hours**

**Maximum Weightage: 30**

**Part A: Annotation questions. Answer *any two* questions. Each carries 2 weightage.**

1. And the silken, sad, uncertain rustling of each purple curtain  
Thrilled me—filled me with fantastic terrors never felt before;
2. When will you take off your clothes?  
When will you look at yourself through the grave?
3. If her horny feet protrude, they come  
To show how cold she is, and dumb.
4. Tomorrow,  
I'll be at the table  
When company comes.

**(2 × 2 = 4 weightage)**

**Part B: Short essay questions. Answer *any two* questions. Each carries 3 weightage.**

5. Comment on Emerson's arguments on nonconformity.
6. How is irony used in "Buffalo Bill's"?
7. Describe how marital tension is described in "Home Burial".
8. How does O'Neill employ expressionist techniques to reveal the protagonist's psychological deterioration?

**(2 × 3 = 6 weightage)**

**Part C: Long essay. Answer *any four* questions. Each carries 5 weightage.**

9. Analyse the role of Huck's innocent perspective in uncovering the systemic cruelty and injustices faced by Jim in Twain's novel.

**(P.T.O.)**

10. Evaluate Captain Ahab's quest for the white whale as both a spiritual journey and a transformative experience for his character.
11. *Dutchman* becomes a revolutionary text within the Black Arts Movement that exposes the racial power dynamics. Explain.
12. Explain the significance of the title *Tar Baby* and illustrate how the metaphor of 'Tar Baby' reflects themes of entrapment and racial identity in the novel?
13. Discuss the ways in which memory and illusion function as barriers to genuine human connections in *The Glass Menagerie*.
14. Examine how Faulkner's use of multiple perspectives and time shifts reflects the growing isolation of alienated individuals in *The Sound and the Fury*.

**(4 × 5 = 20 weightage)**