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Department of English
BA Hons Part-III
Question Bank
Paper-IX American Literature

Short Answer Questions: -

1. What are the three biggest symbols (the "trinity") in the poem 'When Lilacs lasts in the dooryard Bloom'?
2. What does the bird represent in 'When lilacs last in the dooryard bloom'?
3. What does the lilac symbolize?
4. Who is Emerson's intended audience in "Self-Reliance"?
5. How does Emerson define 'genius' in the essay "Self-Reliance"?
6. How would you analyze what Emerson means when by 'every heart vibrates to that iron string'?
7. What is the relationship between Chris and Anna?
8. What does Larry agree to hold for Chris?
9. In what season does the beginning of the play "Anna Christie" take place?
10. In the poem, Because I could not stop for Death, written by Emily Dickinson, how does the poet personify death?
11. Why does the speaker use the word "strove" to describe the children at recess?
12. Define "perch." What do you think the author meant by "perches in the soul?"
13. In "the morns are meeker than they were," why does the speaker state that the maple tree "wears a gayer scarf" and that the field wears "a scarlet gown"?
14. How does Dickinson communicate the effect of nature in 'I Taste A Liquor Never Brewed'?

15. What is the tone of the poem "I taste a liquor never brewed" by Emily Dickinson?
16. What type of work does Chillingworth take on in New England?
17. How is the Scarlet Letter embodied by Pearl?
18. What are the purposes of the opening Custom-House essay?
19. Does Chillingworth ever forgive Hester?
20. During their interview, what is Chillingworth's attitude toward Hester and her act of infidelity?
21. How does the narrator describe Gatsby?
22. What did Miss Baker tell Nick about Tom?
23. How does Nick meet Gatsby?
24. What was Gatsby's reaction to Daisy's child?
25. Why does Wilson believe that Gatsby killed Myrtle?
26. What is the significance of the "blue roses" that appear on the screen at the start of Scene Two?
27. What causes Laura to retreat back into her solitary world?
28. . Who is in a "nailed up coffin" and who found a way out of one?
29. What are Tom's plans for the future?
30. . What part does Laura play in the angry argument between Tom and Amanda?
31. What does etcetera transmits in the poem "My sweet old etcetera"?
32. What is the mood of "what if a much of a which of a wind"?
33. In "Pity this busy monster, manukind," what does the speaker mean when he says that "progress is a comfortable disease"?
34. What's the theme and tone of the poem "pity this busy monster, manunkind"?
35. "You shall above all things be glad and young" is a poem written for?
36. In poem "The Road not Taken" where do the roads go?
37. why did the poet shake the harness bells in the poem "stopping by woods on a snowy evening"?
38. Why do you think that the flowers are the only thing in the poem 'Mowing' given a specific name?

39. What significance does the snake have in the poem?
40. How does the poet personify the 'scythe' in the second line?
41. In "The Road Not Taken," what does the "yellow wood" symbolize?
42. What does "darkest evening of the year" mean in the poem "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening"?
43. What does the road "less traveled" symbolize in "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost?
44. How far do you think it is from the owner's house in the village to these woods? Why?
45. In the poem "Mowing" by Robert Frost, how does the setting of the poem help to reveal the meaning or controlling idea of the poem?
46. In "Tree at My Window", how is Frost shown to be capable of inspiring a wide range of emotions and metaphors in only a few lines?
47. What is the "valley of ashes"?
48. What is the true relationship between Daisy and Tom?
49. Why does Laura say about the broken horn on the unicorn: "Maybe it's a blessing in disguise"?
50. How does Amanda transform herself for the gentleman caller? How is her attitude about their guest different from Laura's?

Long Answer Questions: -

1. Discuss the various themes in "When Lilacs last in the dooryard bloom".
2. How does the speaker create a sense of unity throughout the poem? How does this unified feeling contribute to our understanding of death in the poem?
3. What does Emerson mean by self-reliance? What are Emerson's major points?
4. In Emerson's "Self-Reliance," how does one define "society" and one's place in it?
5. Discuss the importance of fog in the play. How does O'Neill use it as a metaphor for both opportunity and uncertainty?
6. Identify the central conflict between Burke and Chris. What intensifies their anger and causes them to lash out at each other? Provide textual examples to explain their conflict and how they resolve it.
7. Comment on Emily Dickinson's treatment of Death in "Because I Could not Stop for Death".
8. 'Hope with the Thing with Feathers' explains the author's correlation between hope and life's difficulties. Elaborate.
9. How does Dickinson's use of unconventional capitalization affect the poems?
10. What is the significance of nature in Emily Dickinson's poems?
11. What is the role and significance of Mistress Hibbins in Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*?
12. How does Pearl's relationship to Dimmesdale change throughout the novel "The Scarlet Letter" by Nathaniel Hawthorne?
13. How is the 'American Dream' portrayed in 'The Great Gatsby'?
14. What does the pearl necklace symbolize in *The Great Gatsby*?
15. Throughout the story, Gatsby has difficulty accepting that the past is over and done with. Where do you find evidence of his trying to recapture the past? What does this say about him?

16. Discuss the symbolism of the glass menagerie in relation to Laura. How, for example, does Laura resemble the glass animals? What does the unicorn represent at first, and what does it represent once its horn has been broken?
17. Discuss the way Williams uses the following motifs the movies, The fire escape, Thee Paradise Music Hall, Laura's leg brace, Laura's glass unicorn in the play as symbols. What does each one represents? How do they relate to the play's theme?
18. What are the major characteristics of E. E. Cummings's poems?
19. What are some of the American ideals that are explored in Frost's poems?
20. What are the features of Robert Frost's poetry?
21. Is the title of the poem "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" suitable?
22. Discuss Robert Frost as a poet of symbolism.
23. What is the theme between Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken" and "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening"?
24. Comment on intellectual elements of Frost's poetry.
25. Show how the poetic "self" in Robert Frost's poems is withdrawn to facilitate the "other" voices to become loud and free.