



# SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI COLLEGE

(Affiliated to Bharathidasan University)

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Tiruchirappalli - 620 002

Department of English

Question Bank

Semester: VI

Sub Title: AMERICAN LITERATURE

Sub Code: 22ACCEN11

## SECTION A

I. Fill in the blanks

1. O Captain! my Captain! our \_\_\_\_\_ trip is done.
- 2 The ship has weather'd every \_\_\_\_\_, the prize we sought is won.
- 3 The port is near, the bells I hear, the people all \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 The poem *On the Pulse of Morning* was recited at the inauguration of President \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 The three natural elements that speak in the poem are the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Maya Angelou's tone in the poem is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 9 In *Birches*, the poet imagines that the trees are bent by a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 10 The real reason for the bending of the birches is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 11 Frost uses the birch trees as a symbol of \_\_\_\_\_ from reality.
- 12 The poem is set in a "kingdom by the \_\_\_\_\_."
- 13 The speaker believes that the \_\_\_\_\_ were jealous of their love.
- 14 The speech *I Have a Dream* was delivered in \_\_\_\_\_, 1963.
- 15 Dr. King referred to the \_\_\_\_\_ as a "promissory note" to all Americans.
- 16 He dreamed that one day his children would be judged by their \_\_\_\_\_ and not skin color.
17. Emerson's famous line is "Trust \_\_\_\_\_."
- 18 According to Emerson, society is in conspiracy against the \_\_\_\_\_ of every one of its members.
- 19 Emerson criticizes people who conform to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 20 The play *All My Sons* was written by \_\_\_\_\_.
- 21 Joe Keller is responsible for shipping \_\_\_\_\_ airplane parts.

22 Kate Keller refuses to believe that her son \_\_\_\_\_ is dead.

23 The main narrator of the novel is \_\_\_\_\_.

24 Pecola becomes pregnant by her \_\_\_\_\_.

25 *The Bluest Eye* is set in the town of \_\_\_\_\_, Ohio.

## SECTION B

### II. Answer the following questions in 50 words

1. Why are the people exulting?
2. What kind of preparation has been made to welcome the captain?
3. Which country is represented as a ship in the poem? What figure of speech is it?
4. Why is the captain not responding to the speaker?
5. What does the “ship” in the poem symbolize?
6. Who are the three voices of nature in the poem “On the Pulse of Morning”?
7. Why does Maya Angelou use natural elements to speak in the poem?
8. Why does the poet want to “get away from earth awhile”?
9. What does the act of swinging on birches symbolize in the poem?
10. What theme dominates the poem “Annabel Lee”?
11. How does the speaker cope with the loss of Annabel Lee?
12. What does Dr. King mean by “Let freedom ring”?
13. Why does Emerson value non-conformity?
14. What is Emerson’s view of consistency in thoughts and actions?
15. What does the title *All My Sons* signify?
16. How does Chris Keller’s idealism create conflict in the play?
17. What role does Kate Keller play in maintaining the illusion of Larry’s return?
18. Why does Pecola Breedlove want blue eyes?
19. What does the novel say about internalized racism?
20. How does the character of Cholly Breedlove affect Pecola’s life?

## SECTION C

### III. Answer the following in 250 words

1. Explain how Walt Whitman expresses grief and admiration for Abraham Lincoln in the poem "O Captain! My Captain!"
2. Describe the use of the ship as a symbol in "O Captain! My Captain!" What does it represent, and how does it relate to American history?
3. Discuss the central message of hope and unity in "On the Pulse of Morning." How does Maya Angelou call people toward peace and progress?
4. Describe how Maya Angelou uses natural elements like the Rock, River, and Tree as metaphors. What do they represent in the poem?
5. How does the poem reflect the historical struggles of different communities in America? Mention any specific groups referred to.
6. In what way does Maya Angelou address the future generation in "On the Pulse of Morning"? How is the tone inspirational?
7. Describe the contrast between the harshness of reality and the innocence of childhood in "Birches." How does Frost balance both in the poem?
8. In "Birches," how does the poet present nature? What role does it play in the speaker's emotional and mental state?
9. How does Edgar Allan Poe express eternal love in "Annabel Lee"? What literary devices does he use to convey this deep emotion?
10. Describe the role of death in "Annabel Lee." How does the poet deal with the loss of a loved one?
11. What is the central message of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech? How does he use imagery and repetition to strengthen his message?
12. Discuss the use of historical references and symbols in "I Have a Dream." How do they enhance the speech's impact on the audience?
13. How does Dr. King express hope for a future of racial equality and justice in his speech? Support your answer with specific lines.
14. Explain Emerson's view on society in "Self-Reliance." Why does he believe society is a threat to individual freedom?
15. How does Emerson encourage non-conformity in "Self-Reliance"? Use examples to support your explanation.
16. Describe the role of Chris Keller in the play. How is he different from his father, and what ideals does he represent?
17. How does Kate Keller's refusal to accept Larry's death affect the events and characters in the play?

18 What role does racism—both external and internalized—play in shaping the lives of the characters in *The Bluest Eye*?

19 Discuss the role of family in the novel. How do Pecola's parents contribute to her emotional and psychological downfall?

20 How is childhood portrayed in *The Bluest Eye*? What does the novel suggest about the loss of innocence?

#### SECTION D

IV. Answer the following in 500 words

1. Discuss the extended metaphor used in "O Captain! My Captain!" and explain how Whitman mourns the death of Abraham Lincoln through it.

2. Examine the emotional tone of "O Captain! My Captain!" and explain how the poet expresses grief and admiration for the fallen leader.

3. Analyze the symbolism of the Rock, the River, and the Tree in "On the Pulse of Morning." How do these natural elements represent the past, present, and future?

4. Describe how Robert Frost uses the imagery of birch trees to explore themes of escapism and return to innocence in "Birches."

5. Explore the theme of eternal love in "Annabel Lee." How does Poe use imagery and repetition to highlight the strength of the speaker's emotions?

6. Explain how King appeals to both logic and emotion in "I Have a Dream." Why is this important in a speech for civil rights?

7. According to Emerson, what makes a person great? Explain with reference to "Self-Reliance."

8. Discuss the role of moral responsibility and guilt in *All My Sons*. How do these themes drive the plot?

9 Analyze how Toni Morrison presents the theme of beauty and racial identity in *The Bluest Eye*.

10. Describe the role of family and community in shaping Pecola's tragedy.







#### SECTION D

IV. Answer the following questions in 500 words [10 questions]

