

Alexandria University
Department of English
June, 2010
Second Term 2009/2010



Faculty of Arts, Damanhour
Third Year
Time Allowed: 2hrs.
American Literature

Answer TWO questions only: (50 Marks for each)

Analyze the stanzas from "Song of Myself", indicating how symbolism explains Whitman's Transcendental philosophy:
celebrate myself, and sing myself,
and what I assume you shall assume,
for every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you.
Loaf at my ease observing a spear of summer grass.
I guess it is the flag of my disposition, out of hopeful green stuff woven.

III. Comment on this text from Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*:
"Women came to Hester's cottage, demanding why they were so stretched, and what the remedy! Hester assured them that, at some brighter period, in Heaven's own time, a truth would be revealed. The angel and apostle of the coming revelation must be a woman. So said Hester Prynne, and glanced her sad eyes downward at the scarlet letter. And, after many, many years, a new grave was delved, near an old and unken one. It bore a herald's wording of which might serve for a motto of our now concluded legend; so somber is it, and relieved only by one ever-glowing point of light gloomier than the shadow: *On a field, sable, the letter A, gules*".

II. Illustrating from the works you have read this course, elucidate the idea of the American Dream.

IV. Explain the Frontier Myth in the light of any literary text you know.

V. Write on the American Enlightenment movement in the 18th Century, with reference to Benjamin Franklin.

VI. Discuss the impact of women writers and reformers in the 19th Century, citing as an example Harriet Beecher Stowe.

Good Luck
Dr. Eman El-Meligi

Write on four only of the following:

- 1-The colonies.
- 2-Puritans and personal narratives.
- 3-The Enlightenment and the Great Awakening
- 4-Transcendentalists.
- 5- The American Revolution.
- 6- Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson.

Best of luck
Dr Awad H. El-Kilany

