



**NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA**  
**Faculty of Arts**  
**Department of English**  
**2023\_2 EXAMINATIONS**

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**COURSE CODE:**           ENG822  
**COURSE TITLE:**        AMERICAN LITERATURE  
**CREDIT UNITS:**        3  
**TIME ALLOWED:**        **THREE HOURS**

**INSTRUCTION: ANSWER FOUR QUESTIONS; NO. 1 AND ANY OTHER  
THREE QUESTIONS**

1. John Winthrop, the English Puritan, wrote a sermon, 'A Model of Christian Charity', which served as a moral and enduring guide to all the Puritans who settled in Massachusetts Bay Colony in America. Discuss the five major themes of the sermon.  
(25 marks/60 minutes)
  
2. Carry out a literary analysis of Emily Dickinson's poem, 'If I Can Stop One Heart From Breaking', paying particular attention to the theme, structure, and style.  
(15 marks/40 minutes)
  
3. Discuss the themes of race, conformity, slavery, freedom, and violence in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884).  
(15 marks/40 minutes)
  
4. In what three (3) ways did Edward Franklin Albee's *The Zoo Story* reflect the characteristics of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Theater of the Absurd?  
(15 marks/40 minutes)
  
5. *Claude McKay brilliantly reverses the thematic focus and the tone of the sonnet genre from love, and substitutes them with hate and its accompanying tone.*  
Examine this statement by carrying out a literal analysis of McKay's poem, 'Enslaved', paying particular attention on the theme, tone, and structure of the poem.  
(15 marks/40 minutes)