

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086
(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2008 – 09 & thereafter)

SUBJECT CODE: EL/MC/PR14

B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2009
BRANCH XII – ENGLISH
FIRST SEMESTER

COURSE : MAJOR – CORE
PAPER : PROSE
TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS : 100

I. Attempt a short analysis of any ONE of the following passages with special focus on theme, structure and style: (1x15=15)

1. Good commanders in the wars must be taken, be they never so ambitious; for the use of their service, dispenseth with the rest; and to take a soldier without ambition, is to pull off his spurs. There is also great use of ambitious men, in being screens to princes in matters of danger and envy; for no man will take that part, except he be like a seeled dove, that mounts and mounts, because he cannot see about him. There is use also of ambitious men, in pulling down the greatness of any subject that overtops; as Tiberius used Marco, in the pulling down of Sejanus. Since, therefore, they must be used in such cases, there resteth to speak, how they are to be bridled, that they may be less dangerous. There is less danger of them, if they be of mean birth, than if they be noble; and if they be rather harsh of nature, than gracious and popular: and if they be rather new raised, than grown cunning, and fortified, in their greatness. It is counted by some, a weakness in princes, to have favorites; but it is, of all others, the best remedy against ambitious great-ones. For when the way of pleasuring, and displeasuring, lieth by the favorite, it is impossible any other should be overgreat.

OR

Great empires have risen and fallen and been forgotten by man for thousands of years, till their remains were dug up again by patient explorers from under the sands that covered them. And yet, many an idea, many a fancy, has survived and proved stronger and more persistent than the empire.

“Egypt’s might is tumbled down, Down a-down the deeps of thought; Greece is fallen and Troy town; Glorious Rome hath lost her crown. Venice’s pride is nought. But the dreams their children dreamed, Fleeting, unsubstantial, vain, shadowy as the shadows seemes, airy nothing as they deemed, These remain” – So sings Mary Coleridge.

II. Answer any THREE of the following in about 350 words. (3x15=45)

- a. What is Sam Robert’s view as evinced in “Celebrating the Semicolon in a Most Unlikely Location”?
- b. Describe Charles Lamb’s dreams in his essay “Dream Children”.
- c. Attempt a study of Arundhati Roy’s “Come September”.
- d. What does Virginia Woolf say about “Jane Austen”?

- e. Discuss the style of Jawaharlal Nehru's letter to Indira Gandhi.
- f. Critically examine the main points in Ramachandra Guha's "The Locality and the Nation".

III. Answer any TWO of the following in 500 words.

(2x20=40)

- a. How effectively does Marina Hyde highlight the collapse of the private into the public in her essay?
- b. Comment on the style of J.B.Priestley in his "On Doing Nothing".
- c. Critically analyse the arguments of Amartya Sen in "Development as Freedom".
- d. List the main causes for apology in Kevin Rudd's "Apology to Australia's Indigenous People".
- e. Examine how Shashi Tharoor presents "Violence and its Manifestations".
