

**STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086**  
(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2004 – 05 & thereafter)  
**SUBJECT CODE: EL/MC/PR54**  
**B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2009**  
**BRANCH XII – ENGLISH**  
**FIFTH SEMESTER**

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

**MAX. MARKS : 100**

**Section – A**

**I. Analyse the following passages with reference to context, content, theme, tone and style. (15x2=30)**

1. Nay, the idler has another and more important quality than these. I mean his wisdom. He who has much looked on at the childish satisfaction of other people at hobbies, will regard his own with only a very ironical indulgence. He will not be heard among dogmatists. He will have a great and cool allowance of all sorts of people and opinions. If he finds out no out-of-the-way truths, he will identify himself with no very burning falsehood. His way takes him along a by-road, not much frequented, but very pleasant, which is called Commonplace Lane, and leads to the Belvedere of Commonsense.

(R.L. Stevenson – *An Apology for Idlers*)

2. Freedom and power bring responsibility. The responsibility rests upon this Assembly, a sovereign body representing the sovereign people of India. Before the birth of freedom, we have endured all the pains of labour and our hearts are heavy with the memory of this sorrow. Some of those pains continue even now. Nevertheless, the past is over and it is the future that beckons us now.

(Jawaharlal Nehru – *A Tryst with Destiny*)

**Section – B**

**II. Answer any THREE choosing at least one question from each section.**

**(3x10=30)**

**a.**

1. Bacon's essays have been described as being "discursive, intellectual and impersonal." Discuss this statement with reference to the essay prescribed.
2. Consider De Quincey's essay 'On Knocking at the Gate in Macbeth' as a piece of psychoanalytical criticism.
3. Identify features of Romanticism in Lamb's essay 'Dream Children'.
4. "...if thought corrupts language, language can also corrupt thought." What arguments does George Orwell give to justify this statement?

**b.**

1. How does Winston Churchill use rhetoric to turn a heavy military loss into a glorious victory?
2. How does Lincoln succeed in arousing a spirit of independence and nationalism through his 'Gettysburg Address'?
3. Write a note on the rhetorical features in Burke's speech.
4. How effective do you think Adrienne Rich's speech is as a Commencement Address?

Section – C

III. Answer any **TWO** of the following.

(2x20=40)

1. How does Louis Fischer present both the personal and the political dimensions of Gandhi's life?
2. Discuss An Area of Darkness as a record of Naipaul's quest for identity and of a lifelong search for roots.
3. Consider The Gospel According to St. Luke as literary narrative.
4. What are the features that make a speech successful and effective?
5. Trace the evolution of the genre of essay from Bacon to the modern times.
6. "A biographer must combine the historian's concern for truth with the novelist's ambition to create a work of art." Discuss with reference to the biography prescribed for study.

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