

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

SUBJECT CODE: EN/FC/WR33

B.A./ B.Sc. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2009
THIRD SEMESTER

COURSE : FOUNDATION CORE – GROUP C
PAPER : WRITING & READING SKILLS - II
TIME : 2 HOURS

MAX. MARKS : 50

I Read the following passage and pick out the prepositions. (1/2x10=5marks)

Mass nesting is known to occur only on three beaches in Orissa, all situated at the mouths of flowing rivers. Olive Ridleys eat a variety of food ranging from algae to bottom dwelling crustaceans. They also feed on jellyfish and molluscs. Catching or killing a turtle is illegal and is punishable by imprisonment for a minimum of two years.

II Use the correct form of the verb in the blanks provided. (1/2x10=5 marks)

In the early hours of the morning, while it is still dark, Hamida _____ (go) out of her home as is her habit. She usually _____ (take) the footpath that leads to the fields. One morning she _____ (walk) just a few yards when she _____ (notice) the outlines of a human form beside the trunk of a tree. She picked up courage and _____ (walk) towards the figure. It _____ (be) the mad woman. She was dead as a block of stone. An agonized groan _____ (escape) Hamida's throat. She _____ (shut) her eyes and swayed as if she _____ (go) to fall. Cold shivers _____ (run) up and down her spine.

III Write three paragraphs on one of the following. (10 marks)

1. the Olive Ridley
2. the student- teacher relationship in *Black*
3. safety of Indian students in Australia

IV a. Combine the sentences. Every sentence should contain at least one relative clause. (1x5=5marks)

1. Mr. Reddy died in an accident. He was the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.
2. I did not like the book. I had bought it at the exhibition.
3. Anita watches the Republic Day parade every year. Her brother is in the Army.
4. The manager's car was stolen from the parking lot yesterday. It was blue in colour.
5. Ramakrishnan came up with an idea. It was innovative. He joined the team yesterday.

b . Complete the following using relative clauses. (1x5=5marks)

1. There is an old story_____.
2. Her father _____.
3. The library has many books _____.
4. She went to the place _____.
5. The musicians _____.

V Answer one of the following. (10 marks)

You have been selected to participate in the Science Olympiad to be held at Singapore. Write a letter to the Principal of your college requesting leave. Remember to give all the relevant details.

OR

Your college is celebrating its Golden Jubilee in December. As president of the Students' Union write a letter to the principal of another college in the city inviting her/ him to the function. Remember to give all the relevant details.

VI Read the following passage and answer the following questions. (10 marks)

The Karnataka High Court's judgment on June 27 --- banning night traffic on National Highway 212 that cuts through the Bandipur Sanctuary --- brings to an end the controversy that has been raging on this issue. Since the road passes through other adjacent sanctuaries --- Mudumalai in Tamil Nadu and Wayanad in Kerala --- the verdict, in effect, extends protection to these sanctuaries.

Road kill is just one of the many problems that come up when a highway passes through a wildlife habitat. A road splits the habitat into two; forcing many of the inhabitants to cross the road during their peregrination in search of food, water or a mate, risking their lives. Roads often run through the migratory routes exposing the itinerant herds to danger.

Patches of forests that had remained inviolate for eons are opened to human depredation and the roads change their very nature. Careless travelers start forest fires causing immense damage. Domestic cattle that move here pass on contagious diseases to wildlife, which has no immunity to certain illnesses. Few years ago a rinderpest epidemic wiped out thousands of gaur in the Mudumalai-Bandipur stretch. Roads facilitate ruthless exploitation of the forests by big companies.

Wildlife biologist Ullas Karanth says 'I see, with sadness, roads intruding deep into the forests as the arms of multinationals, like the limbs of an octopus.' When a series of hydro-electric projects and dams were started in the Western Ghats after independence, it spelt doom to many stretches of forest areas. However, roads are necessary and many arteries like the highway from Guwahati to Jorhat that runs through the Kaziranga National Park were laid long before we had any idea of wildlife conservation. In such a situation what we can do is control the traffic in these roads.

In some sanctuaries the road is closed for traffic after sundown. Or an alternate route can be provided. The traffic in the State Highway 17 D that cuts through Nagarhole National Park will soon be diverted through an alternate route that skirts the park. This issue went up to the Supreme Court and the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) constituted to go into the question suggested this solution. The new route is longer by only three kilometers. Another step is to ensure that new roads are not laid inside prime forests. The proposal for a road through Pushpagiri Sanctuary in Karnataka has been referred to the CEC.

Occasionally we hear talk of a railway line through the Satyamangalam forests. We should bear in mind that the railway lines passing through the Gir sanctuary and the Rajaji National Park routinely take their toll of wildlife. Between Coimbatore and Palakkad, at least seven elephants have been killed in the past two years. Trains can be slowed down in these stretches and the drivers can hoot if necessary to. All this needs some serious inter-departmental coordination, a factor rare in our country. ...

Be it a road, a dam or dredging an isthmus to make a shortcut for ocean liners, every single act of tampering with nature extracts an ecological price. A society should know this price before it takes any such step.

(Theodore Bhaskaran. *The Hindu*. September 6, 2009)

Peregrination: To travel on foot, to walk.

Itinerant: traveling from place to place.

Depredation: plunder

Gaur: wild ox, bison

Isthmus: narrow strip of land connecting two larger areas of land.

1. Give an appropriate title to this article. (1)
2. What is 'road kill'? Why does it occur? (2)
3. How do domestic cattle pose a threat to wildlife? (1)
4. What are the measures that can be taken to prevent accidents? (3)
5. In paragraph 4 what does 'skirts' mean? Make a sentence with the word. (2)
6. What is the principal idea conveyed by the author through this article? (1)
