

**STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086**  
**(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2019-20 and thereafter)**  
**SUBJECT CODE: 19EL/FC/LL43**

**B.A./B.SC./B.V.A./B.S.W. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2021**

**COURSE: FOUNDATION CORE**

**TIME: 1 ½ HOURS**

**PAPER: LANGUAGE THROUGH LITERATURE – IV**

**MAX. MARKS: 50**

**SECTION A**

**I. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below: (10 marks)**

As for the Chupwalas, all of whom belonged to the Union of the Zipped Lips, and were the Cultmaster's most devoted servants—well, Haroun kept being struck by how ordinary they were, and how monotonous was the work they had been given. There were hundreds of them in their Zipped Lips cloaks and hoods, attending to the tanks and cranes on the deck, performing a series of mindless, routine jobs: checking dials, tightening joints, switching the tanks' stirring mechanisms on and off again, swabbing the decks. It was all as boring as could be; and yet—as Haroun kept having to remind himself—what these scurrying, cloaked, weaselly, scrawny, snivelling clerical types were actually up to was nothing less than the destruction of the Ocean of the Streams of Story itself! 'How weird,' Haroun said to Iff, 'that the worst things of all can look so normal and, well, dull.'

'Normal, he calls this,' Iff sighed. 'The boy is crazy, bananas, out to lunch.'

Their captors pushed them towards a large hatchway in which were set two tall black doors bearing the Zipped Lips symbol of Khattam-Shud. All this was done in total silence, except for the eerie hissing sound that the Chupwalas used instead of speech; and when they were a few feet away from the double doors, they were stopped, and held by the arms. The double doors opened. This is it,' Haroun told himself.

Through the doors came a skinny, scrawny, measly, weaselly, snivelling clerical type, exactly like all the others. But also unlike: because as soon as he appeared, every Chupwala in sight began to bow and scrape as energetically as possible; for this unimpressive creature was none other than the notorious and terrifying Cultmaster of Bezaban, Khattam-Shud, the big bogeyman himself!

'That's him? That's him?' Haroun thought, with a kind of disappointment. 'This little minging fellow? What an anticlimax.'

1. What was Haroun's opinion on the appearance of the Chupwalas and the nature of their work when he first saw them? (2)
2. "'How weird,' Haroun said to Iff." What was Haroun talking about? (2)
3. Do you think Khattam-Shud was any different from his most devoted servants? Give reasons. (2)
4. Pick out the synonyms of the following phrases from the passage: (2)
  - a) Leader of a religious group whose beliefs are considered extreme or strange by many people
  - b) Dull and repetitious
5. Frame sentences using any two of the following words: (2)  
disappointed    clerical    scrawny    normal    performing

## SECTION B

**II. Answer any two of the following questions in about 75-100 words each. (2x10=20 marks)**

1. Did you like the ending of the novel *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*? Give reasons.
2. What does Emily Dickinson speak about in her poem "I'm Nobody! Who are you?"
3. Is Mrs. Henderson a typical tourist? Why do you think so?

## SECTION C

**III. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate idiom or phrase: (5x1=5 marks)**

1. Shyama enjoyed the serenity while munching on a biscuit on the balcony. But she knew it was only \_\_\_\_\_ as the children would come home from school soon.  
a) Her head in the clouds    b) The calm before the storm
2. Sia is \_\_\_\_\_ after the accident that kept her in hospital for two months.  
a) On nodding terms    b) Back on her feet
3. You can't compare zumba and intermittent fasting. It's like comparing \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) Apples to oranges    b) Forbidden fruit
4. You would never think it's \_\_\_\_\_ in Adyar when it's so hot and dry here in Mylapore.  
a) Raining cats and dogs    b) A storm in a teacup
5. "We \_\_\_\_\_" said Ratna. "Yes, I can see that from all your talk about the past," said Ashwin.  
a) Are like cat and dog    b) Go back a long way

**IV. Frame sentences using any five of the following idioms/phrases. (5x1=5 marks)**

1. see eye to eye
2. as thick as thieves
3. game plan
4. in the driver's seat
5. alive and kicking
6. blacked out
7. under the weather

## SECTION D

**V. Write a discursive essay on any one of the following topics in about 150-200 words. (1x10 = 10 marks)**

1. Are cultural programmes held on campus more memorable than those held online? (comparing and contrasting)
2. Lockdown has seen a boom in home-grown businesses. (persuasive)