

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086
(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2011– 12 & thereafter)

SUBJECT CODE: 11EL/FC/LS13

B.A. / B.Sc. / B.V.A. / B.Com./B.C.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2012

FIRST SEMESTER

COURSE : FOUNDATION COURSE - ENGLISH

PAPER : LANGUAGE AND STUDY SKILLS

TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS : 100

I. Expand the idea contained in any ONE of the following statements.

1x10= 10 marks

a. A gentle answer turns away anger.

OR

b. Beauty is skin deep.

II a. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow: 1x10= 10 marks

Parks and Rooftop Gardens

For many people who live in cities, parks are an important part of the landscape. They provide a place for people to relax and play sports, as well as a refuge from the often harsh environment of a city. What people often overlook is that parks also provide considerable environmental benefits.

One benefit of parks is that plants absorb carbon dioxide—a key pollutant—and emit oxygen, which humans need to breathe. According to one study, an acre of trees can absorb the same amount of carbon dioxide that a typical car emits in 11,000 miles of driving. Parks also make cities cooler. Scientists have long noted what is called the Urban Heat Island Effect: building materials such as metal, concrete, and asphalt absorb much more of the sun's heat and release it much more quickly than organic surfaces like trees and grass. Because city landscapes contain so much of these building materials, cities are usually warmer than surrounding rural areas. Parks and other green spaces help to mitigate the Urban Heat Island Effect.

Unfortunately, many cities cannot easily create more parks because most land is already being used for buildings, roads, parking lots, and other essential parts of the urban environment. However, cities could benefit from many of the positive effects of parks by encouraging citizens to create another type of green space: rooftop gardens. While most people would not think of starting a garden on their roof, human beings have been planting gardens on rooftops for thousands of years. Some rooftop gardens are very complex and require complicated engineering, but others are simple container gardens that anyone can create with the investment of a few hundred dollars and a few hours of work.

Rooftop gardens provide many of the same benefits as other urban park and garden spaces, but without taking up the much-needed land. Like parks, rooftop gardens help to replace carbon dioxide in the air with nourishing oxygen. They also help to lessen the Urban Heat Island Effect, which can save people money. In the summer, rooftop gardens prevent buildings from absorbing heat from the sun, which can significantly reduce cooling bills. In the winter, gardens help hold in the heat that materials like brick and concrete radiate so quickly, leading to savings on heating bills. Rooftop vegetable and herb gardens can also provide fresh food for city dwellers, saving them money and making their diets healthier. Rooftop gardens are not only something everyone can enjoy, they are also a smart environmental investment.

A. Choose the right answer

1) One benefit of the park that people often overlook is that

- A. Children can play in the park.
- B. Parks are an important part of the landscape.
- C. Parks provide environmental benefits.
- D. People like to visit parks.

2) Parks and rooftop gardens help humans by

- A. Absorbing carbon dioxide and emitting oxygen
- B. Giving them shade.
- C. Absorbing oxygen and emitting carbon dioxide
- D. Providing recreation.

3) The word mitigate in paragraph 2 means

- A. aggravate
- B. obliterate
- C. reduce
- D. consume

4) Using information in paragraph 2, it can be inferred that

- A. cities with rooftop gardens are cooler than those without.
- B. some plants are not suitable for growth in rooftop gardens.
- C. most people don't like rooftop gardens.
- D. most people prefer life in the country over life in the city.

5) Which of the following statements are true, according to the information given in paragraph 2?

- A. cities are warmer than nearby rural areas.
- B. city people like warm weather.
- C. cities have no parks.
- D. rural areas don't have dense population.

6) Based on information in paragraph 3, which of the following best describes the main difference between parks and rooftop gardens?

- A. Parks are expensive to create while rooftop gardens are not.
- B. Parks are public while rooftop gardens are private.
- C. Parks absorb heat while rooftop gardens do not.
- D. Parks require much space while rooftop gardens do not.

7) One advantage that rooftop gardens have over parks is that they

- A. Decrease the Urban Heat Island Effect
- B. Replenish the air with nourishing oxygen
- C. Do not require the use of valuable urban land
- D. Are less expensive than traditional park spaces

8) In paragraph 4 the writer recommends rooftop gardens because

- A. Plants grow well on roofs.
- B. They are a smart environmental investment.
- C. People would like to relax in rooftop gardens.
- D. Buildings look more beautiful when they have rooftop gardens.

9. Rooftop vegetable and herb gardens help people because
- A. they provide fresh healthy food
 - B. they look beautiful
 - C. they smell good
 - D. they help people to be smart

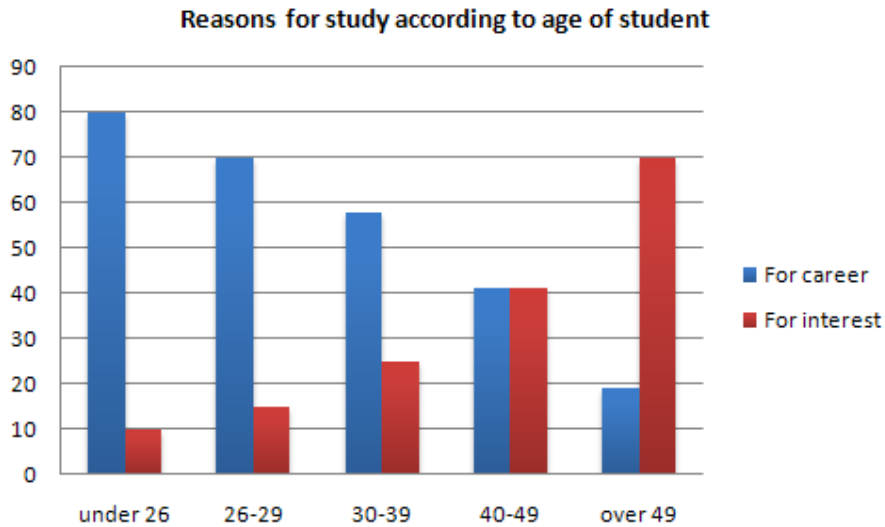
- 10) **Based on information in the passage, a suitable title for the passage would be**
- A. Parks and city life
 - B. Rooftop gardens as a substitute for parks.
 - C. Parks and people.
 - D. The value of rooftop gardens.

II b. Say whether the following statements are true or false: (5x1=5 marks)

- 1. The reason for the warm temperature in cities is the materials such as concrete used for the buildings.
- 2. Trees absorb very less amount of carbon dioxide.
- 3. Cities don't have many parks because of lack of space.
- 4. In summer rooftop gardens help reduce cooling bills by absorbing heat from the sun.
- 5. The main purpose of roof garden is to grow vegetables.

III. The chart below shows the main reasons for study among students of different age groups, in a European country.

Read the chart and answer the questions given below: (5x2=10)



- 1. According to the chart, which age group has the highest percentage of students studying for career? What is the percentage? What could be the reasons for this trend?
- 2. Which age group has the highest percentage of students studying for interest? What is the percentage? What could be the reasons for this trend?
- 3. Which group has the least interest in studies? Why? (Give your opinion)

4. Which group has a good balance between studying for interest and for career?
What is the percentage?
5. To which age group do you belong? Do you think the data given in the chart for your age group is correct? Why/Why not?

IV. Give a list of instructions to check your attendance online OR to check your E mail.
(minimum 5 steps) (5 marks)

V. Write short notes on any five of the following: (5x2=10)

- a. Bibliography b. glossary c. online resources d. index
e. acknowledgement f. preface g. pie-chart

VI. Using the information given below prepare a bibliography: (10 marks)

Raymond Murphy Intermediate English Grammar II edition Cambridge
University Press New Delhi 1994

The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus Christopher Marlowe 1980 New
Delhi Oxford University Press

Kiranmai Dutt and Geetha Rajeevan Basic Communication Skills Cambridge
University Press 2007 New Delhi

The Most Common Mistakes in English Usage Tata McGraw-Hill Edition
Thomas Elliott Berry 1976 New Delhi

Child Psychology Naima Khatoon Pearson Books 2010 Mumbai

VII. Your college is planning to observe ‘**World Heart Day**’. Prepare a notice to be put up
on the campus, giving all the details. (5 marks)

VIII. Read the following passage and make notes: (10 marks)

A rat is a rodent, the most common mammal in the world. *Rattus norvegicus* is one of the approximately four hundred different kinds of rodents, and it is known by many names, each of which describes a trait or a perceived trait or sometimes a habitat: the earth rat, the roving rat, the barn rat, the field rat, the migratory rat, the house rat, the sewer rat, the water rat, the wharf rat, the alley rat, the gray rat, the brown rat, and the common rat.

The average brown rat is large and stocky; it grows to be approximately sixteen inches long from its nose to its tail—the size of a large adult human male’s foot—and weighs about a pound. The brown rat is sometimes confused with the black rat, or *Rattus rattus*, which is smaller and once inhabited New York City and all of the cities of America but, since the brown rat pushed it out, is now relegated to a minor role.

Rats are nocturnal, and out in the night the brown rat’s eyes are small and black and shiny; when a flashlight shines into them in the dark, the eyes of a rat light up like the eyes of a deer. Though it forages in darkness, the brown rat has poor eyesight. It makes up for this with, first of all, an excellent sense of smell. . . . They have an excellent sense of taste, detecting the most minute amounts of poison, down to one part per million.

The brown rat's teeth are yellow, the front two incisors being especially long and sharp, like buckteeth. In terms of hardness, the brown rat's teeth are stronger than aluminum, copper, lead, and iron. They are comparable to steel. With the alligator-like structure of their jaws, rats can exert a biting pressure of up to seven thousand pounds per square inch. Rats, like mice, seem to be attracted to wires—to utility wires, computer wires, wires in vehicles, in addition to gas and water pipes. One rat expert theorizes that wires may be attractive to rats because of their resemblance to vines and the stalks of plants; cables are the vines of the city. By one estimate, 26 percent of all electric-cable breaks and 18 percent of all phone-cable disruptions are caused by rats. According to one study, as many as 25 percent of all fires of unknown origin are rat-caused.

**IX. Write a short summary of the passage above based on the notes you have made.
Give a title. (10 marks)**

X. a. Fill in the blanks with appropriate articles and prepositions: (5 marks)

The train was _____ time. Ms. Rani picked up her suitcase and got into _____ first class compartment. There was a woman with _____ baby _____ the compartment. Ms. Rani put her suitcase _____ the seat and sat _____ the window. Just then a boy and _____ girl got _____ the train. _____ that moment _____ guard blew his whistle and waved his green flag.

b. Fill in the blanks with past tense or past perfect tense forms of the verbs given in brackets: (5 marks)

When Daniel _____ (return) home last night, he found that burglars _____ (break) into his house and _____ (take) away all his things. When the police _____ (come), they _____ (find) that the men _____ (force) open the door of the kitchen. Daniel _____ (estimate) that he _____ (lose) things worth about Rs. 5,00,000. A police dog _____ (visit) the house and it _____ (lead) the police to the beach.

c. Use the following idioms and phrases in sentences of your own so as to bring out their meanings: 1x5= 5 marks

- i) to pull strings
- ii) a bolt from the blue
- iii) to hang around
- iv) a feather in one's cap
- v) to show off
