

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086
(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2019–20 and thereafter)
SUBJECT CODE: 17EL/FC/EC34

B.Voc. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2022
THIRD SEMESTER

COURSE: FOUNDATION CORE

PAPER: ENGLISH FOR COMMUNICATION – III

TIME: 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS: 100

SECTION A

I. Read the following editorial and answer the questions that follow. (20)

Season of floods: On TN's long-term solutions to avoid monsoon woes

NOVEMBER 12, 2021 00:02 IST

Tamil Nadu's cities need long-term solutions to avoid the monsoon woes

The ongoing spell of heavy rain in Chennai has again exposed the vulnerability of the city, a coastal metropolis, to floods, and raised more questions than answers about the Government's preparedness to deal with the northeast monsoon. The first spell of heavy rain of 21 cm, mostly in the early hours of Sunday (November 7), caught everyone by surprise. Storm water drains and waterways running to about 700 km have been cleared in the last four months. However, no real improvement was seen in the problem of inundation. The nightmare of the 2015 December floods haunted Chennai in the backdrop of the authorities monitoring the release of surplus water from the reservoirs on the outskirts. Even as the city was struggling to get back to normality, there was a depression in the Bay of Bengal, which crossed the coast near Chennai on Thursday. This time, the city did not experience very heavy rainfall but several suburbs such as Tambaram and Red Hills recorded over 22 cm of rain. In the last four days, other parts of the State too were at the receiving end of the monsoon. Nagapattinam, one of the backward areas of the Cauvery delta, was damaged after 31 cm fell in a day.

The crux of the problem is the issue of drainage, be it in Chennai or in Nagapattinam. In a large urban setting such as Chennai, shrinking open spaces, the gap between the coverage of the drains and that of sewer lines, ageing drains and sewage systems in core areas of the city, and encroachments or obstructions blocking the free flow of water are responsible for the mess. The city is blessed with a few rivers such as the Cooum and the Adyar, apart from a number of canals including the Buckingham Canal. All these waterbodies, if properly maintained, can be very effective flood carriers, sparing several residential localities from inundation. The State Government, which is executing a couple of integrated storm water drain projects, should look for durable solutions to the city's long-standing woes and executing them in a short span of time. The Government has been swift in providing relief and its seriousness in the matter can be seen from the fact that Chief Minister M.K. Stalin visited flood-hit areas continuously since Sunday for a first-hand account of the problems. Often in the past, the determination shown in finding a long-term solution to waterlogging decreased during the non-monsoon periods. Mr. Stalin, who was Chennai Mayor and Local Administration Minister earlier, is well placed now to put his experience to use and pull the city out of this bad situation. The people too should be responsible enough in ensuring that the waterbodies and drains are not turned into dumps.

1. What is the editorial about? (1)
2. State whether the following sentences are true or false: (3)
 - a) The government is well prepared to deal with the northeast monsoon.
 - b) The Chief Minister has sufficient experience to help the city avoid monsoon woes.
 - c) Improper drainage system is the major issue faced only by the people of Chennai.
3. What does the editor mean by “monsoon woes?” How do they affect the city of Chennai and its suburbs? (3)
4. According to the editorial, what are the possible solutions to avoid problems in monsoons? (3)
5. How do you think Chief Minister M.K. Stalin can help the city overcome difficulties faced during the rainy season? (2)
6. Match the words from the advertisement in Column A to their meanings in Column B. (4)

COLUMN A	COLUMN B
i) suburbs	a. A frightening or unpleasant experience
ii) nightmare	b. troubles causing much suffering
iii) inundation	c. an area that is outside the central part of a town or city.
iv) woes	d. flooding

7. Make sentences of your own with any four of the following words. Do not copy the sentence in the editorial. (4)
 coastal issue release urban solution surprise

II Read the following opinion piece and answer the questions that follow. (20)

The Cycle of Memories

JUNE 21, 2020 00:32 IST

Childhood memories are incomplete without learning how to ride a bicycle and falling down a number of times

"When the spirits are low, when the day appears dark, when work becomes monotonous, when hope hardly seems worth having, just mount a bicycle and go out for a spin down the road, without thought on anything but the ride you are taking." These words by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle beautifully express the alluring nature of cycling.

There is no denying that good times begin with good memories and learning to ride a bicycle is an integral part of it. Childhood memories are incomplete without learning how to ride a bicycle, falling down a number of times and of course injuring the knees and walking up to elders and convincing them to accompany you.

During childhood, learning to ride a bicycle was the biggest challenge. I remember my dad getting me a second-hand tiny bicycle, and my happiness knew no boundaries. I immediately started cleaning it and asked my brother to paint it yellow. Every evening, I would wash the mud and sand off the wheels. Caring like a friend because it became a part of the family. Nurturing it with machine oil and a towel to make it shine now and then.

We grew up with a lot of memories in one baggage, but a bicycle always remains special. When you are young if you get to ride one, you remember those old days fondly.

In April 2018, the United Nations General Assembly declared June 3 World Bicycle Day. The resolution for it recognises "the uniqueness, durability and usefulness of the bicycle, which has been in use for two centuries, and that it is a simple, affordable, reliable, clean and environmentally fit sustainable means of transport."

World Bicycle Day is a global event meant to be enjoyed by all people regardless of any characteristic. The bicycle as a symbol of human progress and advancement "promotes tolerance, mutual understanding and respect and facilitates social inclusion and a culture of peace".

The bicycle further is a "symbol of sustainable transport and conveys a positive message to foster sustainable consumption and production, and has a positive impact on climate".

Mandakini Rout

1. What do bicycles remind the author of? (1)
a. adulthood b. childhood
2. What are the childhood memories of learning to ride a bicycle made of? (3)
3. Describe the author's experience while learning to ride a bicycle. (4)
4. Why should we celebrate World Bicycle Day? (2)
5. How does a bicycle benefit society? (3)
6. Match the words from the advertisement in Column A to their meanings in Column B. (3)

COLUMN A	COLUMN B
i) mutual	a. the use of goods or services
ii) sustainable	b. shared between two or more people or groups
iii) consumption	c. something that can continue for a long period of time

7. Make sentences of your own with any four of the following words. Do not copy the sentence in the editorial. (4)

memories reliable happiness culture positive respect

SECTION B

III Read the given passage and make notes on it.

(10)

Human beings have long been fascinated by the amazing activities of ants. Greek mythology contains many tales about ants. One of these concerns the Myrmidons, a most industrious people, who claimed their ancestors were ants – a clan of the Ashanti tribe of the African west coast still does. Plato, the well-known Greek philosopher, wrote that men who led honest lives were descended from ants and, on dying, became ants again. In the Middle Ages, people believe that ants lived together in peace and shared the work fairly.

Ants are common figures in fairy tales. Children all over the world know stories of ants changing into people or people turning into ants in order to perform a daring deed. Ants also appear in riddles and proverbs. Perhaps the most famous reference to ants in literature is the well-known story of the grasshopper and the ant. There are many versions, but the theme is always the same - disregarding the advice of the hard-working ant, the lazy grasshopper spends the summer singing and dancing instead of storing food and dies from hunger during the winter.

Medieval doctors employed the powerful jaws of ants to close wounds. This was nothing new – writings from India show that physicians were doing this as early as 1000 B.C.

First, the cut was drawn together and an ant was held so that it could grasp the edges of the skin. Then, the insect's body was pinched off, but the closely shut jaws remain firmly attached. These were left in place until the wound healed. Incidentally, this method of closing cuts is still used by some people of the Mediterranean region and by natives of the jungles of Guyana, in South America. Doctors in the Middle Ages also used ants to cure deafness, rheumatism, gout, and other illness. Formic acid, secreted by ants when they bite or sting, was also thought to have medicinal value.

Household ants that eat sweet and oily food stored on storeroom shelves are annoying pests, but rarely are they more than a temporary nuisance. However, in warehouses and on ships they are a major problem, damaging thousands of dollars' worth of sugar, spices, and other commodities every year. Certain carpenter ants are almost as harmful, for they do not stay in decayed woods. Instead, they bore into house beams and roof beams and often weaken them to such an extent that the entire building collapses.

Most scientists feel that, in general, ants do more harm than good. But most scientists do agree that, of all insects, ants are the most intelligent and have the most fascinating habits, and that their highly organised societies engage in activities similar to those of humans.

IV Summarise the above passage.

(10)

V. Write a narrative essay in four to five paragraphs in about 250 words on any one of the following. (20)

- The best birthday
- A memorable festival celebration
- The most difficult challenge you faced in life

SECTION C

VI.1. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs given in brackets. (10x1=10)

- The king _____ (will have renounced/has renounced) his luxurious life for many years.
- Mr.Keith _____ (has taught/has been teaching) French since 2003.
- Monisha _____ (has been working/ will have been working) in the kitchen for many hours.
- The boy _____ (has broken/had broken) the glass when his mother returned home.
- I _____ (will have started/ will start) a new project by next week.
- _____ you _____ *Pride and Prejudice*? (Have read/ Had read)
- By the time, I go to bed tonight I _____ (had finished/will have finished) my work for the day.
- He _____ (will have lived /had been living) in Chennai for two years and, when his mother died, he moved to Coimbatore.
- Tom _____ (may complete/will have completed) his degree by 2025.
- Herbert's father _____ (has never forgotten/ had never been forgetting) his son's birthday.

2. Choose the correct options and fill in the blanks using second conditionals. (5x1=5)

- If Greg had enough money, he _____ and live in Paris.
a. will go b. will be going c. would go
- It wouldn't be so cold if you _____ the windows.
a. hadn't closed b. closed c. would close
- If I _____ her name, I would tell you.
a. know b. knew c. have known
- If I were you, I _____ more carefully in the rain.
a. would drive b. will have driven c. will drive
- What would she think if she _____ me?
a. saw b. sees c. has seen

VII. Rewrite as directed.

(5x1=5)

- Priya asked Michael why he was sad. **(Rewrite as direct speech)**
- Sanya said to Hridya, "Please drop me at the airport." **(Rewrite as reported speech)**
- Khaleed said, "I like the dessert." **(Rewrite as reported speech)**
- The manager said to the team leader, "Have you completed the project?" **(Rewrite as reported speech)**
- Vani said that she was an athlete. **(Rewrite as direct speech)**
