

**STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086**  
**(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2017–18 and thereafter)**  
**SUBJECT CODE: 17EL/FC/EC44**

**B.Voc. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2023**  
**FOURTH SEMESTER**

**COURSE: FOUNDATION CORE**

**TIME: 3 HOURS**

**PAPER: ENGLISH FOR COMMUNICATION – IV**

**MAX. MARKS: 100**

**SECTION A**

**I. Read the following short story and answer the questions that follow. (20 marks)**

**Heart of Gold**

by Sudha Murty

This is a true story. I heard it on the radio during one of my visits to the US. It happened in one of the biggest cities in the world, New York.

It was winter. One evening, a worried mother stood shivering by the road, wearing an old coat. With her was a little girl, thin, sick-looking with a shaven head. She was wearing an oversize dress which somebody had probably given to her out of compassion. It was apparent that they were homeless and poor. The child had a cardboard placard in her hand which said, 'I am suffering from cancer. Please help me.'

The mother was carrying a begging bowl. Whenever the traffic lights turned red they would approach people, stopping them on the road and asking for help.

America is a rich country, but if you are sick and don't have insurance, then you are lost. Nobody can support you. People give small amounts of money when they see such pleas for help. This kind of a scene is not uncommon in India. We see lots of beggars with small infants in one hand and a begging bowl in another. But in America it is not so common. People felt bad for this unfortunate mother and child.

One day, a policeman was passing by and saw them. He asked them a few questions and noticed that the child indeed looked very sick with her swollen eyes and shaven head. He wanted to help, so he opened his purse. He saw a bundle of notes which he had just drawn from the bank. He had received a good bonus for the excellent work he had done. He thought, 'I have a warm home, a caring wife and a loving son. God has been very kind to me. But these unfortunate people don't have any one of these things. It is not their mistake that God has not been kind to them.' He remembered the many things he had promised his wife and son he would buy when he got his bonus. For a while he was in two minds. Then he decided and gave all the cash which he had drawn from the bank to the woman and said, 'Please take good care of the child.'

When he reached home his son met him at the doorstep as usual and hugged him. The house was warm and nice. He sat in front of his wife, and looking at the snow falling outside, he narrated the whole incident. After listening to him for a while his wife was silent, then she smiled. But the son was angry. He said, 'Dad, how are you sure that they have not cheated you? And even though you wanted to give some money you could have given some portion. Why did you give everything?'

The policeman laughed at his son and said, 'Son, you do not know what poverty is. I come across such unfortunate people in my work.'

The days passed and everybody forgot about it.

One day a news item in the paper caught the son's attention: 'Mother and child caught cheating.'

With great interest he read:

‘A greedy mother used her healthy child to pose as a cancer patient. She shaved the child’s head, starved her and dressed her shabbily so that anybody would feel the child was suffering from cancer. Using this tactic, she duped many people. The mother has been arrested.’

The son realized who these people were and was very upset. When his father came home, he told him as soon as he entered the house, ‘Dad, you were cheated by that lady and her child who you thought was a cancer patient. The child is healthy and you gave away your entire bonus to that child.’

His father did not reply. He sat down, and looked out of the window. There were children playing outside. Winter was over and summer was setting in. In a calm voice he said, ‘Son, I am very happy. The child is healthy.’

The boy was surprised. He thought being a policeman, his father would pick up the phone and talk to the police station or he would be depressed that he had been cheated and given away so much money to a healthy child. But there were no traces of such emotions.

He asked, ‘Dad, tell me, are you not upset?’ His father again gave him the same answer, ‘I am happy that the child is healthy.’ By that time his wife came with a mug of coffee in her hand. She had heard the entire conversation. With happiness in her voice, she told her son. ‘Son, you are very fortunate. You have an extraordinary father, who is not angry even though he has lost a lot of money. You should be proud that your father is happy thinking somebody’s child is healthy, rather than worrying about his own big bonus. Learn from him. Help people without expecting anything in return.’

1. The story is set in \_\_\_\_\_. (1)
  - a) New York                      b) New Jersey    c) New Zealand
2. What does the word “dupe” mean in the line: “Using this tactic, she duped many people”? (1)
  - a) to help                      b) to cheat        c) to hurt
3. Which of the following statements is not true according to the given story? (1)
  - a) The father was not angry that he had been cheated.
  - b) The father gave away half of his bonus money to the poor woman.
  - c) It is not so common in America to see beggars with infants on the streets.
4. Which of the following words mean “to be clear and obvious”? (1)
  - a) apparent    b) extraordinary    c) tactic
5. The father had received a good bonus amount for \_\_\_\_\_. (1)
  - a) Christmas    b) helping the poor    c) his outstanding work
6. \_\_\_\_\_ helped the boy realise that they had been cheated. (1)
  - a) The policemen    b) A newspaper article    c) His neighbours
7. Describe the appearance of the little girl. (2)
8. What made the father give away all the cash to the poor woman? (3)
9. Why was the boy surprised at his father? (3)
10. Why was the greedy mother arrested? (3)
11. What do you think is the moral of this story? (3)

## II. Read the poem given below and answer the questions that follow:

(20 marks)

### Flowers

by Pearlyn

They have no mouth, but seem to speak  
A thousand words so mild and meek

...3

They have no eyes, but seem to see  
And bury thoughts into me.

They have no ears, but seem to hear  
All my cries, my every tear.  
They have no arms, but seem to pat  
When with worries my heart is fat.

They have no feet, but seem to walk  
Along with me in my dreams and talk.  
They, I know, are the flowers so nice  
That spread their fragrance a million miles.

Grow a few and then you'll know  
How your life is fresh and new.  
With a smile so broad, I thank my God,  
Whose work to imagine is really too hard.

1. Which of the following statements capture a key idea of the given poem? (1)
  - a) The poet is excited about her ability to write poetry.
  - b) The poet is glorifying her favourite flower.
  - c) The poet is in awe of the complexity of God's creations.
2. "They have no arms, but seem to pat. When with worries my heart is fat"— This line refers to the flowers' ability to \_\_\_\_\_. (1)
  - a) love
  - b) comfort
  - c) touch
3. "With a smile so broad, I thank my God" — 'I' in this line refers to the (1)
  - a) The speaker of the poem
  - b) The flowers described in the poem
  - c) God who created the flowers
4. The word 'meek' in the line, 'A thousand words so mild and meek' means (1)
  - a) to be gentle and kind
  - b) to be bold
  - c) to be confident
5. The words 'cries' and 'tear' \_\_\_\_\_. (1)
  - a) are different in meaning
  - b) are similar in meaning
  - c) are the opposite in meaning
6. What does the poet say about the fragrance of the flowers? (2)
7. What does the poem compare flowers to? (2)
8. Does the poet feel happy or sad in stanza 2? Explain. (3)
9. What do you think the poet means when he says, (3)
 

"Grow a few and then you'll know"?
10. Make your own sentence using any five of the following words (5)
  - a) mild
  - b) tear
  - c) eyes
  - d) heart
  - e) nice
  - f) fresh
  - g) work
  - h) dreams

### SECTION B

**III. Write a review on any one of the following in about 500 words.**

**(1 x 20 = 20)**

1. Your favourite book
2. A movie you watched recently

**IV. Write a discursive essay on any one of the following in about 500 words.****(1 x 20 = 20)**

1. Home cooked food versus fast food - compare and contrast.
2. Social media distracts students from their studies – present your argument.

**SECTION C****V. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb given in brackets.****(10 x1=10)**

1. She \_\_\_\_\_ (take/takes) the metro to reach her office.
2. Monkeys and crocodiles \_\_\_\_\_ (was/were) found at the zoo.
3. One of the girls \_\_\_\_\_ (is/are) participating in the competition.
4. Neither these decorations nor those lights \_\_\_\_\_ (suits/suit) this room.
5. The owner of these apartments \_\_\_\_\_ (reside/resides) in the sixth floor.
6. The Olympics \_\_\_\_\_ (is/are) held every four years.
7. The committee members \_\_\_\_\_ (has/have) different opinions.
8. My mother \_\_\_\_\_ (go/goes) to the temple every day.
9. Everyone in the class \_\_\_\_\_ (is/are) interested in this course.
10. The children \_\_\_\_\_ (plays/play) in the garden every day.

**VI. Choose the correct options and fill in the blanks using third conditionals. (4 x 1=4)**

1. If Cathy \_\_\_\_\_ her phone, she would have called me.  
a) lost b) would lose c) hadn't lost
2. If I had got the first prize, I \_\_\_\_\_ happy.  
a) would have been b) had been c) would be
3. They would have paid less if they \_\_\_\_\_ the tickets earlier.  
a) would have booked b) had booked c) will book
4. If she had gone to art school, she \_\_\_\_\_ a painter.  
a) would have become b) became c) has become

**VII. Rewrite the following sentences in the passive voice.****(3 x 1=3)**

1. They had completed the project before the deadline.
2. The thief robbed me on the way.
3. Shalu is washing the utensils in the kitchen.

**VIII. Change the following sentences into active voice.****(3 x 1=3)**

1. Sweets and candies are liked by children.
2. The registration fees will be paid by me tomorrow.
3. The newspapers were delivered on time.

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