

**STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086**  
**(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2017–18 and thereafter)**

**B.Voc. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2023**  
**THIRD SEMESTER**

**COURSE : FOUNDATION CORE**  
**PAPER : ENGLISH FOR COMMUNICATION – III**  
**SUBJECT CODE : 17EL/FC/EC34**  
**TIME : 3 HOURS** **MAX. MARKS: 100**

**SECTION A**

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

**Onward, Sunward: On India's Mission to Study the Sun**

September 04, 2023

A week ago, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) landed a robotic lander and rover on the moon's south polar region successfully. Yesterday, it launched India's first space mission dedicated to studying the sun, in the form of a spacecraft named Aditya-L1.

Aditya-L1 will study the sun in multiple wavelengths with the help of seven instruments: four to gather data from a distance and three by collecting data from direct samples. The sun is the star closest to the earth and continues to be observed by a wide range of telescopes. However, it still holds many secrets. Some of them are simply waiting to be discovered; this is not easy because of the star's strong influence on its immediate surroundings. One example is the particulars of the solar wind, a stream of charged particles that stream out from the sun into space. Future space missions may benefit from Aditya-L1's findings as the solar wind affects space weather, which in turn affects the digital components of the spacecraft. Others are mysteries — bundles of facts not yet fully explained by scientific theories. One example is the coronal heating problem: why the uppermost layer of the sun's atmosphere is a thousand times hotter than the sun's surface.

In the next four or so months, Aditya-L1 will travel to the L1 Lagrange point, a point 1.5 million kilometres from the earth. At this distance, the spacecraft will have an unobstructed view of the star while it stays in orbit around the point. Aditya-L1 will also have to record and transmit data to earth as quickly as possible. The data analysis process will have to operate with similar speed, so that scientists can piece together an image of the sun. ISRO has also demonstrated its ability to handle complex tasks in missions to other planets (including the lunar space programme, Chandrayaan) with help from foreign space agencies. These skills will be seen in Aditya-L1 as well. While Aditya-L1 seems relatively simple given ISRO's recent achievements, it gives the Indian space programme and the national solar physics community one more boundary to push.

1. What are the two kinds of instruments Aditya-L1 will carry? (2)
2. What is the Lagrange point? (3)
3. Do you think the Indian Space Research Organisation will succeed in its mission? Explain. (3)

4. What is the primary focus of India's Aditya-L1 mission? (1)  
 a) lunar exploration  
 b) investigating the Earth's atmosphere  
 c) studying the sun  
 d) analyzing distant galaxies
5. Why is studying the solar wind important for space missions? (1)  
 a) It provides a source of energy for spacecraft.  
 b) It affects the Earth's climate.  
 c) It impacts the components of spacecrafts and satellites.  
 d) It helps predict weather patterns on Earth.
6. What does the passage say about the complexity of studying the sun? (1)  
 a) It is straightforward and simple.  
 b) There are many mysteries.  
 c) There are no secrets about the sun.  
 d) The influence of the sun is insignificant.
7. Make sentences of your own with any four of the following words. The sentences should bring out the meaning of the word as used in the passage. Do not copy the sentence from the passage. (4x1 = 4)  
 a) launch      b) multiple      c) influence      d) complex      e) immediate      f) achievements
8. Match the words in Column A to their meanings in Column B. (5x1 = 5)

COLUMN A	COLUMN B
a) Observe	a vehicle used in space
b) Mission	to watch carefully
c) Unobstructed	limit
d) Spacecraft	not blocked
e) Boundary	an important task

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

**Unsafe Buildings**

September 03, 2023

S RADHA PRATHI

The news these days seems to be about falling buildings. The obvious reasons are bad engineering, use of inferior-quality building material, and weak foundations. And then, architects will claim that proper curing does not take place in the construction stage. The cityscape in Urban India is changing rapidly. Old homes and government facilities are giving way to new ones. Ten to twenty, and sometimes even a hundred, apartments, stores or offices replace the one old structure that stood on a huge piece of land.

The demand for water supply and sewage disposal have been has risen sharply. Though the law requires every building to leave a minimal margin space around buildings, nobody seems to be paying attention to the rule. So, when it rains heavily, rainwater has nowhere to go except into the blocked stormwater drains. The rooftops in cities are flat unlike those in villages which have sloping roofs. This allows water to drain off the top. Although most buildings have rainwater harvesting systems, there is no space for the water collecting the stormwater drain to flow. Every inch of space

has been built on. If at all there is a ribbon of land around the building, it is cemented and prevents rainwater from flowing into the earth. With the alarming which buildings are being constructed close to one another, it is no wonder that they fall like a pack of cards.

Every time one such episode of faulty engineering raises its ugly head, a lot of commotion is created. Sometimes one or two people, who are unable to bribe the officials or influence them, are punished. Media gets its breaking news. After a few more sharp rains, the season passes and the topic is forgotten till the next rains or the next building that falls.

It must be acknowledged that all this is only one part of the story. The troubles associated with buildings have many more dimensions. When a new construction is raised in place of old ones, the neighbouring buildings are also affected. The loud noise, the dust clouds and the lack of proper ventilation will trouble them for six to eight months of the year. Then they have to put up with building material being dumped in and around the place with or without their permission. Roads are sometimes blocked. Many a time, the properties on adjacent plots are damaged or defaced without feeling guilty. As if these difficulties are not enough, building materials get washed into our stormwater drains and sewage system. The already clogged drainage system will overflow and form little pools and help mosquitoes breed. It is needless to think about the possible epidemics, diseases and infections that would strike the neighbourhood at any moment.

People who plan to build in the midst of well populated areas should register for official permission and also give a written undertaking that they will be of minimum nuisance value to the area and will compensate for damage, losses and inconvenience caused by them. Though this may not solve the problem entirely, it is a more educated way of going about their project. If we as a country choose to ignore it when the construction industry operates unethically, all of us will have to pay for it together.

1. What are the primary reasons for buildings to fall? (2)
2. How does the media react to the incidents of building failures? (2)
3. How does building materials affect the drainage and sewage system when it rains? (3)
4. According to the author, what should people do if they plan to build in well populated areas? (3)
5. List four troubles that are caused by new constructions to the neighbouring buildings. (4)
6. State whether the following statements are true or false (4)
  - a) The law of the land requires buildings to have a minimal margin space around them.
  - b) Urban India is experiencing a simple and slow transformation.
  - c) The space around buildings is planted with trees to absorb water.
  - d) The construction of a new building affects surrounding buildings too.
7. Choose the word that is closest in meaning to the highlighted words. (2)
  - a) It must **acknowledged** that what has been discussed so far happens to be only one part of the story...
    - i. refused
    - ii. admitted
    - iii. denied
    - iv. allowed

- b) ...the construction industry moves forward **unethically** ...
- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| i. immorally  | ii. lawfully |
| iii. lawfully | iv. legally  |

### SECTION B

#### III Read the given passage and make notes on it. (10)

Irish lace is world-famous for its intricate designs, which are created from very simple patterns. Lace-making today is a big business. Large factories now produce yards of the fabric in just minutes. However, the manufacture of Irish lace had relatively humble origins. In the beginning, its production was nothing more than a household activity.

In the 1800s Ireland was a land divided between the rich and the poor. Many families in Ireland lived in small cottages on little plots of land called crofts. Wealthy Irish lords owned this land, and the families who lived there (called tenant farmers) produced crops for them. The family usually grew its own food on the land not used for producing crops for the landowner. Most of the tenant farmers were very poor. Struggling with a lack of land and rocky soil, tenant farmers eventually found a reliable crop to grow: potatoes. Potatoes became the primary food found on the crofts. But when the potato blight, a disease that affects the crops, swept across the country between 1845 and 1851, massive crops were destroyed and thousands starved.

During this difficult time, relief for some Irish families came from an unexpected place. Many of the Catholic nuns in Ireland were familiar with how to make Venetian lace. Since Irish women had been producing rough cloth for their families for generations, the nuns realised their lace-making skills presented an opportunity to help save people from the famine. They created schools to teach many girls and women how to produce the fine crochet that has come to be known as "Irish lace." The wealthier Irish families that could afford to buy the lace earned the nickname "lace curtain Irish."

The designs of the lace were made up of detailed patterns that were developed by individual families. To preserve the originality of each family's designs, the patterns were closely guarded secrets passed from mother to daughter. The details of the patterns were kept so secret, in fact, that many of them were lost as the families either died or fled the poverty for other lands.

Over a period of time, the crochet schools established by the nuns disappeared as fashions changed and the demand for Irish lace declined. In the 1880s, however, there was a brief revival of the lace industry, and this time period produced most of the samples that are now family treasures or museum pieces. The introduction of factory production also changed the industry; mass production of lace is now the norm.

#### 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)

1. A time when you felt proud of yourself.
2. Something funny that happened to you.
3. A memorable vacation.

## SECTION C

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

1. By the time you received this letter yesterday, Dina \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) for Algeria.
2. Sam \_\_\_\_\_ (drive) for six hours when he arrived in the village.
3. She \_\_\_\_\_ (recover) from her surgery by the time we visit her next Saturday.
4. Santa Claus \_\_\_\_\_ (bring) presents to kids for decades.
5. By this time next year, I \_\_\_\_\_ (finish) the course.
6. Timothy \_\_\_\_\_ (not/see) the movie they are talking about.
7. It \_\_\_\_\_ (rain) non-stop for more than an hour now.
8. I finally reached my mom before dinner. I \_\_\_\_\_ (call) her since 7 a.m.
9. Hema \_\_\_\_\_ (sell) her car by next Sunday.
10. We were late to the airport because we \_\_\_\_\_ (forget) our passports and had to go back home to fetch them.

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

1. If I \_\_\_\_\_ enough money, I would buy a big house.  
a) was having                      b) had                                      c) would have
2. You \_\_\_\_\_ exhausted if you went to bed earlier.  
a) will feel                              b) aren't feeling                      c) wouldn't feel
3. I'd get a big tattoo on my back if my parents \_\_\_\_\_ me to do it.  
a) will allow                              b) allowed                              c) would allow
4. You wouldn't have so many accidents if you \_\_\_\_\_ more carefully.  
a) drove                                      b) were driving                              c) are driving
5. If we lived in Mexico, I \_\_\_\_\_ Spanish.  
a) spoke                                      b) am speaking                              c) would speak

**VIII. Rewrite as directed (5x1=5)**

1. The stranger asked Aladdin where he lived. (Rewrite as direct speech)
2. "Priya is my best friend," Preethi said. (Rewrite as reported speech)
3. She said, "I am going to the store." (Rewrite as reported speech)
4. Kenny said that they were playing a match that day. (Rewrite as direct speech)
5. Dronacharya said to Arjun, "Shoot the bird's eye." (Rewrite as reported speech)

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