

**STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086**  
**(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2019-20 and thereafter)**

**B.A./B.SC./ B.S.W. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2024**  
**FOURTH SEMESTER**

**COURSE : FOUNDATION CORE**  
**PAPER : LANGUAGE THROUGH LITERATURE – IV**  
**SUBJECT CODE : 19EL/FC/LL43**  
**TIME : 3 HOURS** **MAX. MARKS: 100**

**SECTION A**

**I. Read the following extract and answer the questions given below. (15 marks)**

The battle was joined at last.

Rashid Khalifa, watching the action from the Guppee command hill, was very much afraid that the Pages of Gup would be beaten badly. ‘Tom up would be the right term for Pages, I suppose,’ he reflected, ‘or perhaps burned.’ His sudden capacity for bloodthirsty thoughts amazed him. ‘I suppose war makes people crude,’ he told himself.

The black-nosed Chupwala Army, whose menacing silence hung over it like a fog, looked too frightening to lose. Meanwhile the Guppees were still busily arguing over every little detail. Every order sent down from the command hill had to be debated fully, with all its pro’s and con’s, even if it came from General Kitab himself. ‘How is it possible to fight a battle with all this chatter and natter?’ Rashid wondered, perplexed.

But then the armies rushed at each other; and Rashid saw, to his great surprise, that the Chupwalas were quite unable to resist the Guppees. The Pages of Gup, now that they had talked through everything so fully, fought hard, remained united, supported each other when required to do so, and in general looked like a force with a common purpose. All those arguments and debates, all that openness, had created powerful bonds of fellowship between them. The Chupwalas, on the other hand, turned out to be a disunited rabble. Just as Mudra the Shadow Warrior had predicted, many of them actually had to fight their own, treacherous shadows! And as for the rest, well, their vows of silence and their habits of secrecy had made them suspicious and distrustful of one another. They had no faith in their generals, either. The upshot was that the Chupwalas did not stand shoulder to shoulder, but betrayed one another, stabbed one another in the back, mutinied, hid, deserted ... and, after the shortest clash imaginable, simply threw down all their weapons and ran away.

1. What did the Shadow Warrior predict about the Chupwalas? Was he right? (3)
2. Why were the Chupwalas distrustful of each other? (3)
3. How did the Pages of Gup stay united? (4)
4. Frame sentences with any three of the following. Do not copy sentences from the passage. (3)  
perplexed      suspicious      resist      pros and cons      capacity      vow

5. Choose the option that is closest in meaning to the word in the given context: (2)
- a) Rabble
- i. disorderly crowd
  - ii. rough fragments of stone or brick
  - iii. silence
- b) mutiny
- i. turn off audio
  - ii. held in common by two parties
  - iii. rebellion against proper authority

**II. Read the following excerpt and answer the questions given below. (15 marks)**

If my house was a desert, Mrs Chatterji's bungalow on the main University road was a lush garden in comparison. Everything from the ornate hat stand in the veranda to the delicate line drawings on the furthest wall of the house spoke of grace and leisure. As we entered, we took in the easy chairs of colonial design with hand embroidered cushions in the living room, the terracotta horses from Bankura on the old fashioned mantelpiece, the Nandalal Bose original in the place of honour above it and the strong smell of fish and mustard wafting in from the kitchen. This last was enticing to most of the guests, but I could tell that it made the Hendersons slightly apprehensive of what the evening held in store.

Our hostess was gracious and welcomed us with warmth and poise. I was lost in admiration because I could never have undertaken a venture of this sort without being in a flap. She was not only cool and smiling as though she had everything under control but also seemed to be enjoying the prospect of leadership in the matter of presenting a new and improved version of campus life to the visitors. I was relieved that she was trying to undo some of the damage I had inadvertently done to the fair name of the community. I also genuinely respected, and even envied, Mrs. Chatterji's total identification with and faith in a single, well integrated way of life. She had a distinctive cultural turf to be on and belonged to a generation that was not torn by doubts about how to behave with foreigners. In comparison I felt that I was culturally confused and rootless, given to looking at everything from too many points of view, always uncertain what was expected of me and tending too often to explain myself as I went along.

1. Why is the narrator impressed by Mrs. Chatterji's welcome? (3)
2. What did the narrator envy about her hostess? (3)
3. Why does Mrs. Dhar refer to herself as "rootless"? How does she deal with it? (3)
4. Frame sentences with any three of the following. Do not copy sentences from the passage. (3)  
gracious      undo      damage      waft      venture      uncertain
5. Pick out synonyms of the following words from the passage: (3)
  - a. tempting
  - b. grace, elegance and balance in a person
  - c. without intention

**SECTION B**

**III. Answer any three of the following questions in about 75-100 words each.**  
(3x10=30 marks)

1. Describe the activities of the Chupwalas on the factory ship.
2. Why was Haroun surprised to see who the “earthling spy” was? What information was given by the spy about the capture of princess Batcheat?
3. Why does the persona in “I’m Nobody! Who are you?” feel excited after introducing herself? What does she want the readers to do?
4. Do you think the narrator was able to impress Mrs. Henderson with her hospitality? Give reasons for your answer.

**SECTION C**

**IV. Frame sentences using any five of the following idioms.** (5x2=10 marks)

1. cool as a cucumber
2. rub shoulders
3. go with the flow
4. the elephant in the room
5. by the book
6. full of hot air
7. sell like hot cakes

**V. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate idiom.** (5x2=10 marks)

1. The actor managed to \_\_\_\_\_ the closure of the production house. He had already begun approaching other producers.
  - a. be a breeze
  - b. the calm before the storm
  - c. get wind of
2. The gardener warned us that if we work the whole day, we will \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. get a charley horse
  - b. be like cat and dog
  - c. take the bull by the horns
3. My friend told me that she ran into a celebrity at the mall and that she appeared to be \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. black and blue
  - b. in the pink
  - c. red tape
4. When I decided to contest the elections, I realised that there will be many people, opposed to me, who will be happy to \_\_\_\_\_. I just hope no one overturns it.
  - a. rock the boat
  - b. be in same boat
  - c. smooth sailing

5. The insurance premium is \_\_\_\_\_ compared to what we'd have to pay if the building burned down.
- a. meat and potatoes
  - b. small potatoes
  - c. couch potatoes

**SECTION D**

**VI. Write discursive essays on the following topics in about 150-200 words each.  
(2x10 = 20 marks)**

- 1. Compare and contrast
  - a. Literature v/s Film adaptations

OR

  - b. Family members v/s Friends in tough life decisions
  
- 2. Persuade
  - a. Artificial Intelligence can/cannot be perceived as a threat

OR

  - b. Education should be free

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