

**STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI – 86**  
**(For candidates admitted from the academic year 2023 – 2024)**

**B.Voc. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2024**  
**SECOND SEMESTER**

**COURSE : FOUNDATION CORE**  
**PAPER : ENGLISH FOR COMMUNICATION - II**  
**SUBJECT CODE : 23EL/FC/EC24**  
**TIME : 3 HOURS**

**MAX. MARKS: 100**

I	SECTION A	CO	KL
1.	<p><b>Fill in the blanks with the verb given in the brackets in the simple past, past continuous or future tense. (10x1=10)</b></p> <p>a) Last night, we _____ (watch) a movie and then _____ (go) out for dinner.</p> <p>b) While they _____ (play) outside, it _____ (start) to rain.</p> <p>c) I _____ (bake) a cake yesterday; I _____ (share) it with my friends tomorrow.</p> <p>d) In the movie, the heroine _____ (not, hear) the footsteps behind her because she _____ (sing) a song.</p> <p>e) Next year, India _____ (win) the Championship and, when they do, I _____ (dance).</p>	1	1
2.	<p><b>Fill in the blanks to form either zero conditional or first conditional sentences. (10x1=10)</b></p> <p>a) If they _____ (board) the train now, they _____ (reach) the city before noon.</p> <p>b) When I _____ (finish) work, I _____ (call) you.</p> <p>c) If you _____ (drop) a glass bottle, it usually _____ (break).</p> <p>d) If he _____ (be) late again, he _____ (lose) his job.</p> <p>e) When the sun _____ (go) down, it _____ (get) dark.</p>	1	1
	<b>SECTION B</b>	<b>CO</b>	<b>KL</b>
II.	<p><b>Read the following passages and make notes on both of them. (2x10=20)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Weirdest Trees in the World and Where to Find Them</b></p> <p>The world of trees is packed with some extraordinary specimens that are unique in terms of shapes, sizes, and features. Let’s look at some of the strange and unusual tree species that are there in today’s world.</p> <p>Native to Madagascar, mainland Africa, and Australia, the Baobab Trees are also known as the <i>upside-down trees</i> due to their unique appearance. The tree top or the branches fan out in a way that makes them look like roots. Did you know that some species of Baobab are also found in India? The Avenue of the Baobabs in Madagascar is a famous site to see these huge trees.</p>	2	2

	<p>Quiver Trees are native to south African region, especially Namibia. The Quiver Tree or <i>kokerboom</i> is known for its tall, branching stem. As per local Namibian beliefs, when a person dies and does not get buried, the soul of that person goes and lives in the Quiver Tree. The tree is very important to the Bushmen tribe as they make quivers (a case for arrows) out of the hollowed branches of this tree.</p> <p>Hyperion is the name of a Redwood Tree located within the Redwood National Park in California, USA. It is the world's tallest known living tree, measuring up to 380.3 ft in height. This tree is truly iconic and is one of the biggest tourist attractions in the national park.</p>		
4.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>How to Write a Perfect Professional email in English in 5 Steps</b></p> <p>Email is the most common form of business communication so it's important to get it right. Follow these simple steps to make sure your English emails are perfectly professional.</p> <p>Always open your email with a greeting, such as "Dear Lily". If the relationship is more casual, you can simply say, "Hi Kelly". If you don't know the name of the person you are writing to, use: "To whom it may concern" or "Dear Sir/Madam".</p> <p>If you are replying to a client's inquiry, you should begin with a line of thanks. For example, if someone has a question about your company, you can say, "Thank you for contacting ABC Company". If someone has replied to one of your emails, be sure to say, "Thank you for your reply". Thanking the reader is to make them feel comfortable, and it will make you appear more polite.</p> <p>Make your purpose clear early on in the email, and then move into the main text of your email. Remember, people want to read emails quickly, so keep your sentences short and clear. You'll also need to pay careful attention to grammar, spelling and punctuation so that you present a professional image of yourself and your company.</p> <p>Before you end your email, it's polite to thank your reader one more time and add some polite closing remarks. You might start with "Thank you for your patience and cooperation" and then follow up with, "If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to let me know" and "I look forward to hearing from you".</p> <p>The last step is to include an appropriate closing with your name. "Best regards", "Sincerely", and "Thank you" are all professional. Avoid closings such as "Best wishes" or "Cheers" unless you are good friends with the reader. Finally, before you hit the send button, review and spell check your email one more time to make sure it's truly perfect!</p>		

<p><b>III.</b></p> <p>5.</p> <p>6.</p>	<p><b>Answer the following in about 75 – 100 words each. (2x10=20)</b></p> <p>Write a summary of the passage titled “Weirdest Trees in the World” based on the notes you made.</p> <p>Write a summary of the passage titled “How to Write a Professional email” based on the notes you made.</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>
<p><b>SECTION C</b></p>		<p><b>CO</b></p>	<p><b>KL</b></p>
<p><b>IV.</b></p> <p>7.</p>	<p><b>Read the magazine article given below and answer the questions that follow in 3-4 sentences each. (4x5=20)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Power Nappers: Chinstrap Penguins</b> February 8, 2024</p> <p>How do you sleep? Maybe you cuddle up with a favourite blanket. You probably go to sleep in the evening and wake up hours later, when it’s morning. That’s how most people sleep. Animals sleep, too. But not all animals sleep the same way. Some spend much more time asleep than we do. Some spend much less. Some animals sleep while they’re standing up or moving.</p> <p>A study published in November in the journal <i>Science</i> found that chinstrap penguins have one of the most unusual sleep styles in the animal kingdom. Instead of one long stretch of sleep, the penguins take thousands of micro-naps every day. Each is only a few seconds long. That means a penguin’s nap lasts only as long as the time it took you to read this sentence.</p> <p>King George Island is about 75 miles off the coast of Antarctica. In 2019, French scientist Paul-Antoine Libourel visited the island to research the way chinstrap penguins sleep.</p> <p>Each November, many chinstraps gather on King George Island to breed. The male birds use stones to build nests. The females lay eggs in the nests. For the next several weeks, the parents take turns protecting the nest and heading out to sea to hunt for fish. Libourel and his team wanted to learn how the adult penguins sleep in such intense conditions. “The animals have to protect their eggs, but they also have to sleep,” he said. “So the question is, ‘How do they sleep when they are facing such a big challenge?’”</p> <p>Libourel’s team fitted 14 penguins with devices to track their brain activity for about 11 days. That way, the researchers could see when the birds were sleeping and when they were awake.</p> <p>What the scientists found was surprising: The penguins took up to 10,000 tiny naps every day. Each nap lasted four seconds, on average. But together, the naps added up to more than 11 hours of sleep each day. The scientists think that by sleeping in such short bursts, the penguins are able to keep watch for predators.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>

The study's findings highlight the importance of studying how wild animals sleep. Vladyslav Vyazovskiy studies sleep at the University of Oxford, in England. He says that until recently, scientists mainly studied sleep in a lab. But with new technology, like the trackers used on the penguins, it's possible to learn how animals sleep in their natural habitats.

“Going out there in the world, where animals have to balance their need to sleep with other challenges—that is very important,” said Vyazovskiy. “That can help us try to understand: ‘What is sleep really about?’”

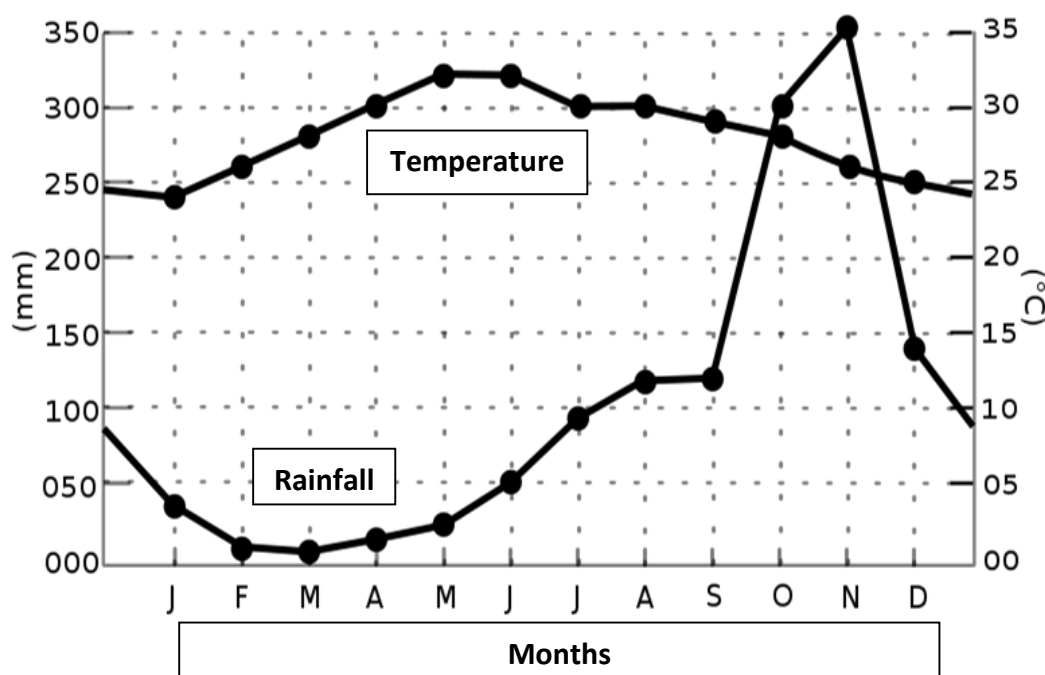
Chinstrap penguins aren't the only animals with notable sleep styles. Bottlenose dolphins shut down one side of the brain when they sleep. The other side stays awake to watch for predators. African elephants sleep less than any other mammal. They rest for only two hours each day, mainly at night. One reason for this short sleeping period is the fact that these mammals spend much of their active day eating, which requires long digestion times that don't allow for much sleeping. Elephants have been found chewing their food while sleeping at the same time. And otters hold hands while sleeping, sometimes even in large groups, so they don't float away from one another while they sleep.

**Questions:**

- How are the sleep habits of chinstrap penguins and humans different?
- Why do the chinstrap penguins sleep in short durations?
- Based on the passage, what is the disadvantage of studying sleep in a lab?
- Which other animal has a sleeping style similar to that of the chinstrap penguin? State the reason.

V. Interpret the graph and comic strip given below and answer the questions that follow. (4x5=20)

8. Rainfall and Temperature for the City of Chennai, 2019.



**Questions:**

- a) A student analysed the above graph and made the following observations. Choose whether the statements are right or wrong.
- (i) The rainfall and temperature for the beginning of the next year is going to be the same as the previous one.
  - (ii) July was the hottest month of the year.
  - (iii) The lowest temperature recorded for this year was close to 10 degrees.
  - (iv) November received the highest amount of rainfall.
  - (v) The temperature was the same for the months of February and November.
- b) A gardener has to plant 5 varieties of flowers and each plant has specific requirements. Choose the most suitable month to plant the flowers based on the graph.
- (i) Violet – 30 degrees, little to no rain
  - (ii) Lilac – 30 degrees, moderate rainfall
  - (iii) Lavender – 25 degrees, little to no rain
  - (iv) Plum – rain above 300 mm
  - (v) Purple – same amount of rain for at least two months
- c) How would you describe the months of February, March and April?
- d) Based on the graph, what conclusions can you draw about the relationship between rainfall and temperature for July to December?

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