

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), CHENNAI - 86
(For candidates admitted from the academic year 2023 – 2024 and thereafter)

B. A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2026
ENGLISH AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS
FOURTH SEMESTER

COURSE : MAJOR ELECTIVE
TITLE : CONTENT AND COPY EDITING
SUBJECT CODE : 23CE/ME/CC45
TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS: 100

Answers to Sections B–D to be marked on the question paper and submitted along with the answer sheet.

| Q.No. | SECTION A Answer ANY FOUR of the following questions in 100 words (4x5 = 20 marks) | CO 1 | KL 1 |
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| 1. | How is the responsibility of the copyeditor different from that of the content editor? | | |
| 2. | Why is it important to abide by style guidelines? | | |
| 3. | Should editors be firm about the political correctness of content? Why? | | |
| 4. | Write a note on the different citation styles. | | |
| 5. | What is plagiarism? Why is it a primary responsibility of editors? | | |
| Q. No. | SECTION B Edit the following newspaper article with respect to punctuation. (10x2 = 20 marks) | CO 2 | KL 2 |
| 6. | i. "Yes," Jim said, I'll be home by ten. ii. The following are the school house names red, yellow, blue and mauve iii. Darwins <i>Origin of Species</i> changed the way humans viewed themselves iv. The hill was covered with kurinji it was a beautiful sight v. I left the scene of the crime ran as fast as possible and tried to forget that I ever saw it vi. The equipment was safe enough wasnt it vii. I realized at once that something was fishy I was not however, the only person who felt the same. viii. Well have to submit the report in three weeks time. ix. Oil which is lighter than water rises to the surface. x. When did Roosevelt say, "We have nothing to fear but fear itself | | |

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| 7 | <p style="text-align: center;">SECTION C</p> <p>Edit the following newspaper article with the copyediting symbols to produce an error free document. (1x10 = 10 marks)</p> | CO 3 | KL 3 |
| | <p>Assam's tea gardens make room for bamboo to fuel bioethanol plant</p> <p>The worlds tallest grass may help some of Assam's 83 major tea estates and 1.22 lak registered small tea growers overcome a tough phase.</p> <p>In august 2022, the government tweaked the Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holding Act of 1956 to alloww tea gardens to use up to 5% of their land for non-tea purposes. A few tea gardens with in a 300-km radius of the world's first commercial-scale 2G bioethanol plant using bamboo as feedstock, are using the permitted portion of their area for Bamboo cultivation.</p> <p>This ₹4,930-crore plant spread arcross 43 acres at Numaligarh, about 260 km east of Guwahati, has been established by Assam Bio Ethanol Private Limited (ABEL), a jointventure of Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL), which is a Navaratna public sector undertaking, with the Finland-base Chempolis Oy and Forum.</p> <p>ABEPL experts said ethanol production is costlier in a 2G or second-generation-plant, but ensures fod security, is more sustaianable, and leaves a lower carbon footprint. While IG ethanol is produced from food crops using simple fermentation, 2G ethanol is derived from non-food farm waste or residue.</p> | | |
| 8. | <p style="text-align: center;">SECTION C</p> <p>Edit the following newspaper article with respect to organisation of information. (1x10 = 10 marks)</p> | CO 4 | KL 4 |

Water, salt, and sugar packs must have warning on presence of micro, nanoplastics: Madras HC

A special Division Bench of Justices N. Sathish Kumar and D. Bharatha Chakravarthy, constituted to hear forest and environment related issues, ordered that the labels on the PET bottles as well as the sugar and salt packets must contain the warning 'This water may contain micro/nano plastics' or 'This salt/sugar may contain micro/nano plastics' in red colour of font size 10. As the guardian of the Constitution, a judge's duty is to protect individual fundamental rights and prevent the abuse of power.

In a significant order, the Madras High Court has directed the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as well as the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to forewarn customers about the possible presence of micro- and nanoplastics (MNPs) in packaging water, salt, and sugar sold in polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles and plastic packs.

In an effort to safeguard public health through judicial oversight, a specific legal directive has been issued regarding the transparency of consumer packaging.

The Ministry, as well as FSSAI, were directed to issue an appropriate notification, in compliance of the court order, within four weeks and issue instructions to all companies that sell drinking water, salt, and sugar in PET bottles and other plastic packaging to comply with the new labelling requirements scrupulously. The Ministry is on track to meet the goal of ending Tuberculosis (TB) in India by 2025 through the *Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan*. The court also called for a status report from the FSSAI by April 10, 2026. Many consumers have recently expressed a preference for glass containers over plastic due to the aesthetic appeal of vintage kitchen decor.

It was during the hearing of a case related to the ban imposed by then Tamil Nadu government on single use plastics, *amici curiae* T. Mohan, Chevanan Mohan, Rahul Balaji and M. Santhanaraman told the court that

the banned plastics somehow find their way into the pristine forests of the Nilgris Biosphere and other parts of the Western Ghats and end up being consumed by wild animals. The *amici curiae* told the court that these prohibited materials are infiltrating the Nilgris Biosphere and Western Ghats, where they are subsequently eaten by wildlife.

The court was also apprised of an interim report of a research undertaken by PSG Institute of Medical Sciences and Research in Coimbatore on the adverse impact caused by microplastics. The PSG campus features a 57,720-square-foot central library, 10 acres of sports fields, and a dedicated student wellness centre. He also said, a project titled ‘Micro and Nano-Plastics as Emerging Food Contaminants: Establishing Validated Methodologies and Understanding the Prevalence in Different Food Matrices’ was launched by FSSAI in March 2024 in collaboration with CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (CSIR-CIFT), Lucknow; ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (ICAR-CIFT), Kochi and Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BIT), Pilani. When the judges wanted to know if the Union Health Ministry or the FSSAI had carried out any studies so far regarding adverse impact of MNPs on human health, central government senior panel counsel V. Chandrasekharan said that the issues related to microplastics in food and related health concerns were deliberated upon at the 14th meeting of the scientific panel on packaging held in Mumbai on April 17, 2025.

The Division Bench also found the project to have found the presence of microplastics in salt and sugar samples. Though FSSAI Joint Director G.V. Srinivasan told the court that the studies were in an initial and nascent stage and that the research would have to be continued before coming to a conclusive decision on the harmful effects of microplastics, the judges said the findings of the initial studies were sufficient to warn consumers about the presence of microplastics in the water, salt and sugar they consume.

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| | Immediately, the judges called for the project report, perused it and found it to have said: “The occurrence of microplastics in commercially available bottled water was analyzed. These samples showed the presence of microplastics in drinking water. 11 samples from six locations (Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Haryana, Karnataka and Maharashtra) were collected.” | | |
| Q.No. | SECTION D Edit the following news article and short story. (2x20 = 40 marks) | CO 5 | KL 5, 6 |
| 9. | <p>Refer to the style guidelines provided below and edit the following article with respect to syntax and style.</p> <p>Style Sheet</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Usage of comma: In a series of three or more items, include a comma before the last item. Example: red, white, and blue/ red, white, or blue Numbers: Spell out numbers one through nine. Use numerals for 10 and above. Example: nine students, 12 pages Capitalization: Capitalize only the first letter of the first word in the heading. Abbreviations: All abbreviations should be in upper case and within brackets for first mention and in upper case in the text for subsequent mentions. Example: United Nations (UN) for first mention and UN for subsequent mentions Quotations: Use double quotation marks for quotations from sources. <p>SC to hear plea accusing New data protection law of ‘weaponising’ Right to privacy and ‘disarming’ RTI</p> <p>The Supreme Court schedules to hear on February 16 a petition which accuses India’s new digital personal data protection law of weaponising the right to privacy to disarm the citizens’ right to seek information from the state under the Right to Information (rti) Act.</p> <p>A 3-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant would hear a petition filed by human rights and transparency activist Venkatesh Nayak, represented by advocate Vrinda Grover, who has challenged Section 44(3) of the Digital Personal Data Protection (dpdp) Act of 2023.</p> <p>The petition submitted that Section 44(3) was amend Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act to facilitate public authorities to blankly refuse information on the ground that the details sought are of a ‘personal’ nature. It said that the</p> | | |

fundamental right to privacy was turned on its head by the provision. The right meant to protect ordinary citizens against state incursion, has been extended to protect the state and public functionaries from RTI disclosures.

The rti provision had exempted authorities from disclosing personal information to an applicant if the details sought had no relationship to any public activity or if disclosure would amount to unwarranted invasion of privacy, originally. Even then, the government had to disclose if public interest outweighed privacy. The decision whether or not to reveal 'personal information' was taken by a Public Information Officer or the First Appellate Authority under the RTI Act after through weighing privacy and transparency concerns.

'The Constitutional consequence is immediate and serious.... Every RTI application involving identifiable public officials, procurement records, audit reports, appointment files, utilisation of public funds or exercise of statutory discretion can now be denied automatically on the ground that it 'relates to personal information' ... the balancing mechanism that ensured proportionality has been dismantled. The exemption operates as an irrebuttable bar at the first gate. This is not a minor statutory adjustment; it is a structural alteration of the decision-making architecture of the RTI Act,' the National Campaign for People's Right to Information (ncpri), represented by advocate Prashant Bhushan, argued in a separate petition filed in the apex court.

The petition represented by Ms. Grover said the amendment introduced by the dpdp Act accorded "unguided discretion to the Executive to deny personal information, which is unconstitutional".

"It is an unreasonable restriction on the right under Article 19 (right to free speech). Privacy is not a fundamental rights available to the state. It violates Article 14 (right to equal treatment) by equating the privacy of public functionaries to that of ordinary citizens and it inverts the jurisprudence of privacy vis-à-vis the right to information and it prioritises privacy over the larger public interest of transparency and open governance," Mr. Nayak's petition argued.

10.

Edit the following abridged short story with respect to coherence, grammar and readability.

A Portrait

by Guy de Maupassant

"Hello! there's Milial!" said somebody near me. I looked at the man which had been pointed out as I had been wishing for a long time to meet this Don Juan.

He was no longer young. His gray hair looked a little like those fur bonnets worn by certain Northern people, and his long beard, which fell down over his chest, had also somewhat the appearance of fur. He were talking to a lady, leaning toward her, speaking in a low voice and looking at her with an expression full of respect and tenderness.

I knew his life, or at least as much as was known of it. He had loved madly several times, and there had been certain tragedies with which his name had been connected. When I spoke to women who was the loudest in his praise, and asked them whence came this power, they always answered, after thinking for a while: "I don't know--he has a certain charm about him."

He was certainly not handsome. He had none of the elegance that we ascribe to conquerors of feminine hearts. I wondered what might be her hidden charm. A friend was passing. I asked him: "Do you know Monsieur Milial?"

"Yes."

"Introduce us."

A minute later we was shaking hands and talking in the doorway. What he said was correct, agreeable to hear; it contained no irritable thought. The

voice was sweet, soft, caressing, musical; but I had heard others much attractiver, much more moving. No tension of the mind was necessary in order to follow him, no hidden meaning aroused curiosity, no expectation awoke interest. His conversation was rather restful, but it did not awaken in one either a desire to answer, to contradict or to approve, and it was as easy to answer him as it was to listen to him.

One thought soon struck me. I had known him for a quarter of an hour, and it seemed as if he were already one of my old friends, that I had known all about him for a long time; his face, his gestures, his voice, his ideas. Suddenly, along a few minutes of conversation, he seemed already to be installed in my intimacy.

Certainly, there was some mystery about him. After half an hour we parted, promising to see each other often, and he gave me his address after inviting me to take luncheon with him in two days.

I forgot what hour he had stated, and I arrived too soon; he was not yet home. A correct and silent domestic showed me into a beautiful, quiet, softly lighted parlor. I felt comfortable there, at home.

I sits down on a cushion-covered divan and felt myself suddenly carried and supported by these little silk bags of feathers, as if the outline of my body had been marked out beforehand on this couch.

Then I looked about. There was nothing striking about the room; everywhere were beautiful and modest things, simple and rare furniture; and exactly opposite me hung the portrait of. It was a portrait of medium size, showing the head and the upper part of the body, and the hands, which were holding a book. She was young, bareheaded; ribbons were woven in her hair; she was smiling sadly. Were it because she was bareheaded, was it merely her natural expression? I never have seen a portrait of a lady which seemed so much in its place as that one in that dwelling. Of all those I knew I have seen nothing like that one. All those

that I know are on exhibition, whether the lady be dressed in her gaudiest gown, with an attractive headdress and a look which shows that she posing first of all before the artist and then before those who will look at her. They seem to be calling somewhere, on people whom they wish to please and to whom they wish to appear at their best advantage; and they have studied their attitudes, sometimes modest, Sometimes haughty.

What could one say about this one She was at home and alone. Yes, she was alone, for she was smiling as one smiles when thinking in solitude of something sad or sweet, and not as one smiles when one is being watched. She seemed so much alone and so much at home that she made the whole large apartment seem absolutely empty. She alone lived in it filled it gave it life. Many people might comes in and converse, laugh, even sing; she would still be alone with a solitary smile, and she alone would give it life with her pictured gaze.

That look also was unique. It fell directly on me, fixed and caressing, without seeing me. All portraits know that they are being watched, and they answer with their eyes, which see, think, follow us without leaving us, from the very moment we enter the apartment they inhabit. These one did not see me; it saw nothing, although its look was fixed directly on me.

The door opened and M. Milial exited. He excused himself for being late. I excused myself for being ahead of time. Then I said: "Might I ask you who is this lady?"

He answered: "That is my mother She died very young."

Then I understood whence came the inexplicable attraction of this man
