

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

B.Voc. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2026
SECOND SEMESTER

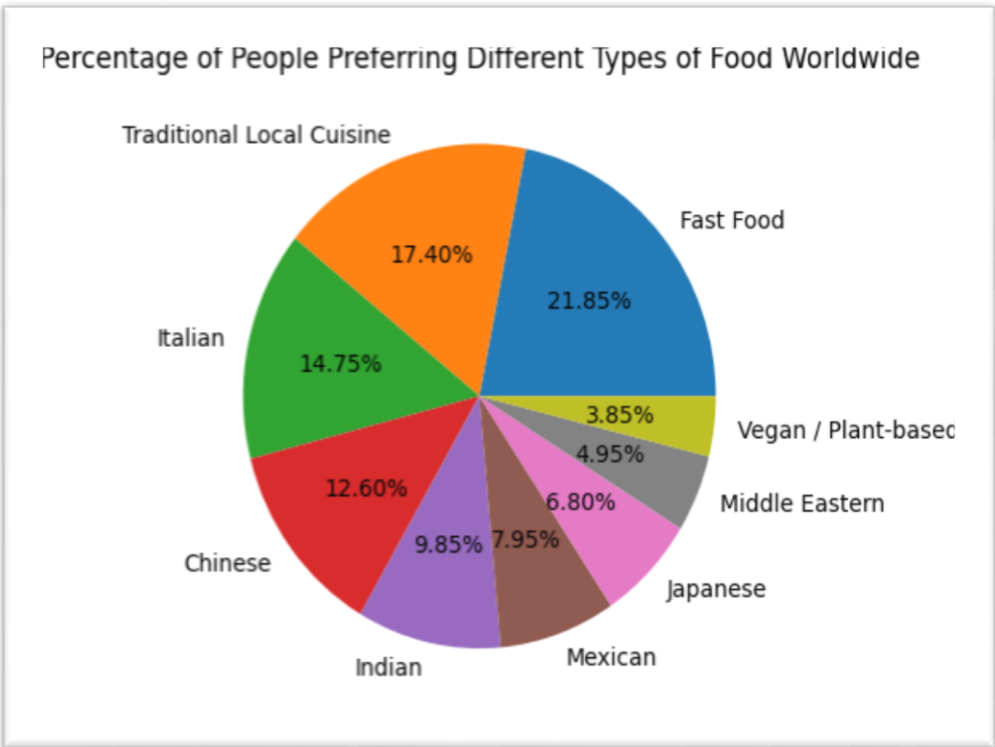
COURSE : FOUNDATION CORE
PAPER : ENGLISH FOR COMMUNICATION - II
SUBJECT CODE : 23EL/FC/EC24
TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS: 100

I	SECTION A	CO	KL
1.	<p>Fill in the blanks with the verb given in the brackets in the simple past, past continuous or future tense. (10x1=10)</p> <p>a. Last Sunday, we _____ (go) to the beach. b. Tomorrow, she _____ (attend) the interview at the admin building. c. Dayalan _____ (work) with his colleagues yesterday from 7pm to 10 pm. d. He _____ (finish) his homework yesterday. e. I don't think it _____ (rain). There's really no need for an umbrella. f. Mariam _____ (dance) at the wedding next week when her cousins arrive. g. My grandfather _____ (clean) his room last night when the bell _____ (ring). h. While the children _____ (play) outside, it _____ (start) to rain.</p>	1	1
2.	<p>Fill in the blanks to form either zero conditional or first conditional sentences. (10x1=10)</p> <p>a. When I _____ (see) her tomorrow, I _____ (tell) her the news. b. If she _____ (study) hard, she _____ (pass) the exam. c. When it _____ (rain), the streets usually _____ (flood). d. If you _____ (heat) water to 100°C, it _____ (boil). e. When the teacher _____ (enter) the class, the students _____ (stand) up.</p>	1	1
	SECTION B	CO	KL
II.	<p>Read the following passages and make notes on both of them. (2x10=20)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3. Traditional medicine has a long history of contributing to conventional medicine and continues to hold promise</p> <p>For centuries across countries, people have turned to traditional healers, home remedies and ancient medicinal knowledge to address their health and well-being needs. According to the WHO Global Report on Traditional and Complementary Medicine (2019), various systems of traditional medicine being used around the world include acupuncture, herbal medicines, indigenous traditional medicine, homeopathy, traditional Chinese medicine, naturopathy, chiropractic, osteopathy, ayurvedic and Unani medicine. And one hundred and seventy WHO Member States have reported on the use of traditional medicine by their populations.</p> <p>Traditional medicine is sometimes seen as pre-scientific, its practices and treatments to be replaced by modern, better, more efficient science-based medicine. What is less known, however, is its contribution to modern science and medicine, and a long history of traditional products and practices being translated into effective treatments for health conditions.</p>	2	2

	<p>Around 40% of pharmaceutical products today draw from nature and traditional knowledge, including landmark drugs: aspirin, artemisinin, and childhood cancer treatments. A closer look at these drugs reveals that the scientists behind them built off traditional knowledge to achieve their breakthrough discoveries.</p> <p>After unsuccessfully testing over 240000 compounds while searching for a cure for Malaria, Chinese scientist To Yoyou turned to traditional Chinese medical literature for clues. There, she and her team found a reference to sweet wormwood to treat intermittent fevers. In 1971, Tu Youyou's team isolated artemisinin, an active compound in sweet wormwood that was particularly effective in treating malaria. Artemisinin is now recommended by the World Health Organization as the first and second line of treatment for malaria. In 2015, Tu Youyou was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for her work on malaria, which has saved millions of lives.</p>		
4.	<p style="text-align: center;">Merits and Significance of Maintaining Privacy</p> <p>Leading a private life has become increasingly valuable in a world where everyone is encouraged to share everything. When people constantly reveal their personal matters, they unintentionally invite opinions, judgement, and interference. Holding certain aspects of life close protects an individual from unnecessary criticism and misunderstandings. It becomes easier to stay focused on personal goals when there is no external pressure or distraction from others' expectations.</p> <p>A private life also helps a person build emotional strength and inner confidence. When individuals stop seeking approval from the outside world, they learn to listen to their own thoughts and instincts. Instead of depending on praise or recognition, they develop faith in their abilities and decisions. This emotional independence leads to greater self-respect and stability, creating a healthier mindset that is not easily shaken by outside influences.</p> <p>Another advantage of privacy is that it protects people from those who may misuse personal information. Not everyone we interact with wishes to see us succeed, and some people may take advantage of our openness. By choosing what to share and what to keep personal, individuals protect their dreams, relationships, and vulnerabilities from being attacked, manipulated, or compared. Privacy acts as a barrier that filters out jealousy, negativity, and competition.</p> <p>Most importantly, a private life allows relationships to develop more deeply and sincerely. When everything is not publicly discussed, meaningful conversations are reserved for trustworthy people who genuinely care. Boundaries encourage respect, loyalty, and emotional safety. As a result, relationships become stronger because they are built on trust rather than the need for attention or approval from others. Maintaining privacy is not about secrecy, but about protecting one's peace, dignity, and happiness.</p> <p>A private life is not a hidden life, rather it is a protected life. As the saying goes, "Not everything you feel needs an audience; sometimes silence is the loudest strength."</p>		

SECTION C			
III.	Answer the following in about 75 – 100 words each.	(2x10=20)	CO KL
5.	Write a summary of the passage titled “Traditional medicine has a long history of contributing to conventional medicine and continues to hold promise” based on the notes you have made.	3	3
6.	Write a summary of the passage titled “Merits and Significance of Maintaining Privacy” based on the notes you have made.		
SECTION D			
IV.	Read the magazine feature given below and answer all the questions that follow in 3-4 sentences each.	(4x5=20)	4 4
7.	<p style="text-align: center;">App that translates speech to sign language in real-time wins top innovation prize October 22, 2025</p> <p>A Kenyan entrepreneur who designed an app that translates speech into sign language using AI-powered 3D avatars has won a major award for African innovation. “Think of it as Google Translate for sign language, that takes speech and text input and outputs photorealistic avatars signing,” said Elly Savatia, creator of Terp 360, a web-based app that uses 3D avatars to provide sign language translations from speech in real time, allowing users to communicate without relying on human interpreters.</p> <p>Savatia was awarded £50,000 (\$67,000) on October 16 by the UK’s Royal Academy of Engineering for winning its prestigious Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation, which recognizes entrepreneurs who have developed technology to address challenges on the continent. His innovation was selected from four finalists across Africa by a panel of seven judges, during a ceremony held in Dakar, Senegal.</p> <p>“The Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation is a way for us to support, showcase and celebrate African innovation,” said Rebecca Enonchong, chair of the prize-judging panel. “What really stood out about Elly’s solution, and Elly himself, is the level of innovation,” she said. “It was really a demonstration that Africans are able and capable of using cutting-edge technology to solve problems, not just on the continent but beyond,” she added.</p> <p>Savatia explains that deaf people in Kenya often struggle to access essential services because many people working in those services don’t know sign language. “To go to the workplace, education, health care, you have to communicate,” said Savatia. “But the deaf community, they’re left behind.” He says human sign language interpreters are expensive and a shortage of interpreters means many deaf people across Africa fail to transition to higher education.</p> <p>Despite a government bill earlier this year requiring Kenyan employers to reserve at least 5% of jobs for people with disabilities, Savatia says many roles often remain inaccessible to deaf people. “Companies cannot afford interpreters... [and] they just don’t have the tools to effectively integrate these people,” he says. “We see ourselves as an enabler. We are able to do sign language, but at scale,” he adds.</p> <p>Terp 360 was developed in conjunction with deaf and hard-of-hearing Kenyans to record over 2,300 signs, including commonly used phrases and words. Motion sensors were attached to the hands of a signer, capturing the movements of their hands in space.</p>		

	<p>While other avatar-based sign language translation technologies already exist, Savatia says these are not designed with African sign languages or cultural context in mind. There are more than 300 sign languages in use worldwide, and around 30 in Africa. Terp 360 currently translates from English and Swahili into Kenyan Sign Language.</p> <p>Savatia says the app is being developed to translate from other major African and global languages, and will support Rwandan, Ugandan, South African, British and American sign languages by mid-2027. To train the AI in new languages, the Terp 360 developers plan to partner with local NGOs and projects that have visual sign language data sets, as well as news stations with several years' worth of sign language video. Savatia says they have also set up a motion capture studio in Nairobi, Kenya, with the capacity to record and learn 1,000 words a day.</p> <p>“One of the criteria that we use to judge is social impact,” said Enonchong. “We want to know that there is an impact beyond creating jobs, creating wealth, that the solution brings. And assistive technologies are one of those areas that are underserved... not just on the continent, but in the world,” she added. “[Savatia] has a real solution that works and that can really transform lives.”</p> <p>Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> How does Terp 360 help reduce communication problems faced by deaf people? What problems do deaf people face in workplaces and public circles? Why do you think that localisation of African sign languages is necessary in this innovation? In what way is Terp 360 different from other sign language translation apps? 																						
V.	SECTION E	CO	KL																				
	Interpret the chart given below and answer the questions that follow. (4x5=20)																						
8.	<p style="text-align: center;">Percentage of People Preferring Different Types of Food Worldwide</p>  <table border="1" data-bbox="256 1240 1254 1984"> <thead> <tr> <th>Food Type</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Fast Food</td> <td>21.85%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Traditional Local Cuisine</td> <td>17.40%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Italian</td> <td>14.75%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chinese</td> <td>12.60%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Indian</td> <td>9.85%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mexican</td> <td>7.95%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Japanese</td> <td>6.80%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Middle Eastern</td> <td>4.95%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vegan / Plant-based</td> <td>3.85%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Food Type	Percentage	Fast Food	21.85%	Traditional Local Cuisine	17.40%	Italian	14.75%	Chinese	12.60%	Indian	9.85%	Mexican	7.95%	Japanese	6.80%	Middle Eastern	4.95%	Vegan / Plant-based	3.85%	5	5
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	<p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) If a restaurant owner wants to maximise profit, which two food categories should receive more focus and why? Justify your answer.b) Does the difference between fast foods and traditional cuisine show a significant shift in global eating habits? Explain your answer.c) What conclusions can you draw about global food preferences and consumption trends?d) If the current trend continues which food categories are likely to expand and which are likely to decline? Justify your reasoning based on the chart provided.		
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