

**STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI – 600 086**  
**(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2023–24)**

**B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2026**  
**BRANCH XII – ENGLISH**  
**SIXTH SEMESTER**

**COURSE : MAJOR-CORE**  
**COURSE TITLE : WEST ASIAN LITERATURE**  
**COURSE CODE : 23EL/MC/WA65**  
**TIME : 3 HOURS**

**MAX. MARKS: 100**

Q. No.	SECTION A	CO	KL
	<b>Answer any four of the following in about 75 words each.</b> <b>(4x5=20 marks)</b>	1	1
1.	Trace the rapidly changing scenario in Saudi Arabia which plays a significant role in Mohammed Hassan Alwan's story "Oil Field."		
2.	Enumerate the hardships faced by refugees in Syria as reflected in Adonis's poems prescribed for study.		
3.	Outline the details of the ongoing war in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip which Falastine Dwikat refers to in her poem "Beit Byout."		
4.	Describe the socio-political context in Emily Nasrallah's story "The Green Bird."		
5.	Dunya Mikhail speaks of a lost homeland in her poem "I Was in a Hurry." What is she referring to?		
Q. No.	SECTION B	CO	KL
	<b>Answer any two of the following in about 150 words each.</b> <b>(2x10=20 marks)</b>	2	2
6.	"It's a long time since anybody's asked/Who lived in these houses, and who last spoke..." Explain these lines with reference to Yehuda Amichai's perspective on the Israel-Palestine conflict.		
7.	"Peasant identity is constituted through the land and its conditions." – Honaida Ghanim. Elaborate with special reference to Mahmoud Darwish's poem "Passport."		
8.	"'You are not me..., ' she said to her reflection." Discuss the dilemma of the protagonist in Hisham Bustani's story "Freefall in a Shattered Mirror."		

Q. No.	SECTION C	CO	KL
	<b>Answer any one of the following in about 250 words each. (1x20=20 marks)</b>	3	3
9.	Examine the trauma of the refugee in Emily Nasrallah's story "The Green Bird."		
10.	Illustrate the importance of the "story" for the Iraqi refugee who seeks asylum in Hassan Blasim's "The Reality and the Record."		
Q. No.	SECTION D	CO	KL
	<b>Answer any one of the following in about 250 words each. (1x20=20 marks)</b>	4	4
11.	The political events in Iran affected the lives of women in many ways. Examine Marjane Satrapi's <i>Persepolis</i> as an autobiographical graphic narrative.		
12.	Analyse the impact of the formation of the state of Israel and the 1948 war on the life and writings of any two poets prescribed for study.		
Q. No.	SECTION E	CO	KL
	<b>Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.</b>		
	<p>She treasured the termehs, carpets and antique objects; memories of her father, her husband and the happy days of her youth; she had grown old with them and they shared a deep bond. Her memories fluttered like thousands of scattered pictures in the rooms of the house, the fingerprints of her childhood still visible on the stone paving of the courtyard and the bricks of the wall. This house was the only place she recognized as her own, and now she saw that she no longer belonged "here"; she did not belong anywhere; she was floating in the air. She wished she could, as cats do when they are sick or dying, put her head back on her neck and disappear.</p> <p>But she saw that she was still strong and alive, not ready to die. Her old age had been forced on her by others. It was their merciless looks and unjust judgements that defined her age and reminded her of the years gone by. She had a youthful image of herself reflected in old mirrors, in cherished memories of happier days. Her heart was still beating, her eyes still chasing after things. She awaited the future, the arrival of spring and summer. She harbored a thousand hopes and dreams, for herself, for her children, for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Seventy-four, seventy-six, or more? Others counted and estimated the dates of her marriage and birth, but Mahin Banu had not yet crossed the threshold of forty years, a fact that only she knew, felt and believed.</p>		

	Now, with no status and no place, she did not know what moment on earth she had landed in, who she was, where she was, what her destination was. She had become something alien to the cosmic order of the universe, like a fallen star banished to the chaotic solitude of the sky. She wished she no longer existed, but that was not possible. Death was far away from her. Her feet sought the ground. Her body absorbed particles of light and heat, and her thoughts, interwoven with a thousand invisible threads, clung to the sweet corners of life.		
	<b>Answer any one of the following in about 150 words each. (1x10=10 marks)</b>	5	5
13.	Assess the actions of Mahin Banoo's son with special reference to the house in Iran.		
14.	Evaluate the impact of the Iranian Revolution in Mahin Banoo's life.		
	<b>Answer any one of the following in about 150 words each. (1x10=10 marks)</b>	5	6
15.	Recreate Mahin Banoo's "happy days of her youth" in Iran.		
16.	"Her old age had been forced on her by others." Explain with reference to Mahin Banoo's attitude to life.		

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