

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), CHENNAI 600086
(For candidates admitted during the Academic Year 2023-24 and thereafter)

M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION APRIL 2026
BRANCH VII - ENGLISH
SECOND SEMESTER

COURSE : POSTGRADUATE CORE
COURSE TITLE : LITERATURE AND MYSTICISM
SUBJECT CODE : 23EL/PC/LM24
TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS: 100

Q. No.	SECTION A	CO	KL
	Answer any one of the following in about 250 words. (1x10=10)	1	1
1.	Identify the literary tropes used to express mystical experience in the prescribed texts.		
2.	Identify the universal characteristics of mystical experience across different traditions.		
Q. No.	SECTION B	CO	KL
	Answer any one of the following in about 250 words. (1x10=10)	2	2
3.	Explain how nature becomes a medium for experiencing the divine in mystical literature. Substantiate your answer with examples from Levertov and Hopkins		
4.	“Mysticism is the art of union with Reality.” — Evelyn Underhill Explain how mystical literature portrays inner transformation as part of the spiritual quest. Answer with reference to any two prescribed texts.		
Q. No.	SECTION C	CO	KL
	Answer any one of the following in about 500 words. (1x20=20)	3	3
5.	Illustrate how mystical writers portray the human quest for truth with reference to at least three prescribed texts.		
6.	Explain how symbolism conveys the themes of separation and longing in the poetry of Jalal-ud-din Rumi and in the <i>Book of Psalms</i> .		
Q. No.	SECTION D	CO	KL
	Answer any one of the following in about 500 words. (1x20=20)	4	4
7.	Analyse the use of irreverential or provocative language in mystical literature and its function in expressing spiritual experience.		
8.	Contrast the expression of divine love in the utterances of Andal and Akka Mahadevi, and in <i>Song of Solomon</i> .		

Q. No.	SECTION E	CO	KL
	Read the poem given below and answer the questions that follow.		
	<p style="text-align: center;">The Guest House Jalaluddin Rumi Translated by Coleman Barks</p> <p>This being human is a guest house. Every morning a new arrival. A joy, a depression, a meanness, some momentary awareness comes as an unexpected visitor. Welcome and entertain them all! Even if they're a crowd of sorrows, who violently sweep your house empty of its furniture, still, treat each guest honorably. He may be clearing you out for some new delight. The dark thought, the shame, the malice, meet them at the door laughing, and invite them in. Be grateful for whoever comes, because each has been sent as a guide from beyond.</p>		
	Answer any one of the following in about 500 words. (1x20=20)	5	5
9.	What aspects of the Sufi tradition do you find in the poem?		
10.	Write an essay on the image of the guide in the poem.		
	Answer any one of the following in about 500 words. (1x20=20)	5	6
11.	Critically evaluate how the metaphor of the guest house is used to interpret human emotions and spiritual growth in the poem.		
12.	Develop an argument explaining how, in the above poem, negative experiences can become a means to spiritual enlightenment.		
