

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), CHENNAI 600086
(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2023 - 2024 and thereafter)

M.A., M.Sc. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2026
SECOND SEMESTER

COURSE: ELECTIVE

TITLE OF THE COURSE: ENGLISH FOR COMMUNICATION

COURSE CODE: 23EL/PE/EC23

TIME: 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS: 100

Q.No.	SECTION A	CO	KL
1.	<p>Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. (10x1=10)</p> <p>The 16th century in Europe was a period of great exploration. These explorations happened on sea as well as on land. During this period, Ferdinand Magellan of Portugal led the first expedition to sail around the world. As a young Portuguese noble, he served the king of Portugal, but he became involved in some political issues at court and lost the king's favor. After he was dismissed from service by the King of Portugal, he offered to serve the future Emperor Charles V of Spain.</p> <p>In 1493, an order by the Pope had assigned all land to the west of an imaginary line on the globe to Spain and all the land east of that line to Portugal. This imaginary line is called the 50th Meridian West. Magellan offered to prove that the East Indies was a Spanish territory. On September 20, 1519, Magellan set sail from Spain with five ships. One of the ships sank, but the remaining four ships survived and found a passage that is today known as the Strait of Magellan.</p> <p>Those who remained spent 98 days on the Pacific Ocean and later crossed the imaginary line that is today called the International Date Line. During those long days at sea, many of Magellan's men died of starvation and disease.</p> <p>Later, Magellan became involved in a conflict in the Philippines and was killed in a tribal battle. Only one ship and 17 sailors under the command survived to complete the journey to Spain and thus prove once and for all that the world is round and that human beings would not fall off the earth.</p>	1	1
a.	Who is the central historical figure discussed in the passage?		
b.	Fredric Magellan was a a. Sailor b. Businessman c. Trekker d. Soldier		
c.	In which century did the events take place?		
d.	What caused Magellan to change his loyalty from Portugal to Spain?		
e.	There is a mention of two imaginary lines in the passage. True or false?		
f.	What did Magellan want to prove by sailing across the seas?		

g.	Magellan died of old age. True or false?		
h.	Did the majority of the sailors who went on the voyage return home?		
i.	What did Magellan's journey prove?		
j.	Why do you think the author wrote this article? a. To give information about Ferdinand de Magellan b. To persuade readers to sail around the world c. To give information about 16th Century Europe d. To compare 16th Century Europe to modern day Europe		
Q.No.	SECTION B	CO	KL
2.	<p>Read the given passage and answer the questions given below. (10x1=10)</p> <p>Jane's great passion in life was animals. She had dozens of books about them. The walls of her bedroom were covered with pictures of animals, just as other girls of her age had posters of popstars.</p> <p>She used to keep animals in the garden and, if she could, she brought them into the house too. Usually, however, her mother caught her.</p> <p>"Get those animals out of here!" she used to shout. "If you must keep them, use the shed at the end of the garden!"</p> <p>Most of Jane's animals were quite small: rabbits, mice, birds - that sort of thing. But one day something quite big came her way.</p> <p>Jane's mother noticed that she was spending quite a lot of time in the shed.</p> <p>She also noticed that food was disappearing from the house — especially bread and fruit. One evening she decided to go down to the shed to see for herself.</p> <p>As she stood outside the door of the shed, she could hear Jane talking to someone inside. "She's got a friend in there with her," she thought. She opened the door and looked in. At first she could only see Jane sitting on the ground. Then she made out the shape of an animal sitting beside Jane. Two huge eyes stared up at her. She nearly screamed, it was a gorilla!</p> <p>"Jane! Where on earth... ?" she started to say. But then she remembered.</p> <p>A few days before, a young gorilla escaped from the zoo and, in spite of every effort to find it. the animal simply vanished.</p> <p>"I found it wandering through the park," Jane explained. "It seemed so lonely! I talked to it and we became friends at once. And then it followed me back here..."</p> <p>"Well, you know you can't keep it," her mother said. "You'd better phone the police and explain."</p> <p>Not long after, the police came and also a van from the zoo. Nobody was even angry with Jane when she told her story. The police knew all about Jane and her animals. And the zoo keeper said: "I can see that Gor likes you. But we need him back at the zoo! But you can come and see him as often as you like. We'll send you a free pass!"</p> <p>These days Jane has almost given up collecting small animals — but you can often find her talking to her friend Gor at the zoo!</p>	2	2

a.	Where did Jane usually keep the animals?		
b.	What did other girls of Jane's age have on their walls?		
c.	Where did Jane's mother suggest she take the animals?		
d.	How did Jane's mother know that something important was happening in the shed?		
e.	What did Jane's mother think when she heard Jane talking inside the shed?		
f.	How did the gorilla come to Jane's shed?		
g.	What did Jane name the gorilla?		
h.	Why was nobody angry with Jane for having brought the gorilla into the shed?		
i.	What did the zoo officials offer Jane?		
j.	What kind of animals did Jane usually bring home?		
3.	<p>Read the following passage and answer the questions given after it. (10x1=10)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE LIFELINE OF THE NATION</p> <p>The Indian Railways, often called the "lifeline of the nation," is one of the largest rail networks in the world. Every day, thousands of trains crisscross the vast Indian landscape, connecting remote villages to bustling metropolitan hubs like Mumbai, Delhi, and Kolkata. For many Indians, a train journey is more than just travel; it is a social experience.</p> <p>Inside a typical sleeper coach, the atmosphere is vibrant. Passengers often share meals, such as homemade theplas or spicy samosas bought from platform vendors. The rhythmic "clack-clack" of the tracks serves as a background score to endless conversations about politics, cricket, and family. As the train moves, the scenery outside changes from the lush green paddy fields of Kerala to the arid deserts of Rajasthan or the majestic Himalayan foothills in the north.</p> <p>In recent years, the network has seen significant modernization. High-speed trains like the Vande Bharat Express have reduced travel time between major cities, offering world-class amenities and "Make in India" technology. Digital transformations, such as the IRCTC e-ticketing system, have made booking journeys easier for millions. Despite these changes, the essence of the Indian rail journey—the spirit of togetherness and the window into India's diversity—remains unchanged.</p>	2	2
a.	_____ is the main topic of the passage.		
b.	_____ is the phrase used in the first sentence to describe Indian railways.		
c.	_____ and _____ are two metropolitan hubs mentioned in the first paragraph.		
d.	_____ and _____ are the two states of India are mentioned in the second paragraph.		
e.	_____ is a snack that the passengers may share.		

f.	_____ is one conversation topic mentioned in paragraph 2.		
g.	_____ is the geographical feature from the North of India is mentioned in paragraph 2.		
h.	_____ is the high speed train mentioned in the passage.		
i.	_____ is the online system has made booking tickets easy.		
j.	_____ is the “spirit of the journey” that has remained unchanged in spite of modernisation.		
	Identify and correct ten errors in the given passage. (10x1=10)	2	2
4.	the sun shined over the busy streets of Mumbai as the Dabbawalas began there morning deliveries. Even though the traffic was heavy; the bicycle riders weaved through cars with amazing speed. Each of the metal containers were filled with hot food for office workers across the city. When the train arrived at Victoria Terminus a massive crowd of people pour out onto the platform. my friend rahul shouted "hurry up or we will miss our connection"! We had to find a rickshaw Fast, because we were already late. It was a chaotic scene, however we managed to find a driver who knew a shortcut. Neither the heat nor the noise were enough to ruin our excitement for the trip.		
Q.No.	SECTION C	CO	KL
5.	Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow in about 150 words each. (2x5=10) Deep in the Western Ghats, the mist settled over the emerald tea gardens of Munnar. Every morning the workers pick the youngest leaves and place them into large baskets. The air smelled fresh and sweet; however it was very cold near the mountain peaks. A small herd of elephants was seen moving silent through the thick forest. My guide pointed to a rare flower and said "this only blooms once every twelve years!" We wanted to take a photo, but the camera battery was dead. The route we had taken was muddy, so we had to walk slowly to avoid falling. Each of the hikers was exhausted by the time we reached the waterfall. There were many exotic birds singing in the trees, but we could not see them through the fog. Everyone agreed that it was the most beautiful place they had ever seen.	3	3
	a. The passage has a number of words and phrases that appeal to the senses. Identify any five of them.		
	b. In your own words, explain why the hikers felt that the palace described was one of the most beautiful they had seen.		
	Write a Statement of Purpose for any one of the following in about 300 words. (1x10=10)	3	3
6.	To apply for a prestigious internship at an Artificial Intelligence startup in Bengaluru.		
7.	To apply for a research programme in your discipline at Oxford University.		

Q.No.	SECTION D	CO	KL
	<p>Summarise any one of the given passages in about 300 words. (1x20=20)</p>	4	4
8.	<p>One of the first Hollywood film stars was the British actor Charlie Chaplin. Chaplin was born in London in 1889. He had a very poor and unhappy childhood. He left school when he was very young and worked in a number of jobs to survive. Then he started to perform with a variety theatre group as a comic actor. In 1913, he emigrated to America because he wanted to be a film actor. He entered the film industry and invented the character of Charlie the Tramp, a funny short man with a black moustache who wore torn, oversized trousers, a short overcoat and a bowler hat. He was brilliant and the comic character he created is still famous all over the world.</p> <p>Chaplin made wonderful comedy films like <i>Gold Rush</i>, <i>City Lights</i>, <i>Modern Times</i> and <i>The Great Dictator</i>. Almost all these films, except for the last, were silent, that is they didn't have spoken dialogues or a soundtrack. Subtitles helped to tell the story. A pianist sometimes played the piano too – fast music for the exciting parts and slow music for the sad parts. By 1919, Chaplin was rich and he started The United Artists Studios. He lived in the USA for many years, but the government didn't like his political opinion as they thought he was a socialist. So, in 1952, when Chaplin tried to return to the USA, after a journey to London, the Americans did not allow him back. Then Chaplin decided to live in Switzerland until his death in 1977. He returned to the US only once in 1972 when he received a special Oscar for his life's work. This was Hollywood's way of saying sorry to one of its greatest stars.</p>		
9.	<p>Where does chocolate come from? Believe it or not, it grows on trees. Not as a sweet chocolate candy bar wrapped in foil, but as a cocoa bean.</p> <p>These cocoa beans grow on a cacao tree, which is found in tropical areas such as Central and South America. The fruit of these trees are called pods, and they are long and hard. Inside the pods is a soft, white pulp that surrounds the thirty or so seeds. These seeds are what we call cocoa beans. They are very hard and bitter to the taste.</p> <p>To make chocolate, people start by carefully taking the beans out of the pods, still covered in the white pulp, and leaving them in a bucket. The bucket is often covered with banana leaves and left for anywhere from a few days to a few weeks. This process is called fermenting. Then the beans are left to dry in the sun. Fermenting and drying the beans makes them less bitter. Then the beans are shipped to a factory to be turned into chocolate.</p> <p>At the factory, the beans are roasted in ovens to bring out their flavor. After roasting, the outer covering of the bean is removed. The inner bean is then crushed to form a paste known as chocolate liquor.</p>		

	<p>From this paste, people can either make cocoa powder or the chocolate we buy in stores. To make cocoa powder, the paste is crushed and pressed repeatedly to remove the fat, leaving behind only a dry, ground powder. To make chocolate, people need to add other ingredients to the paste such as milk, sugar, and cocoa butter. They then mix and heat the concoction several times to create a substance we would recognize as chocolate. It may even have fruit, nuts, or candy added to it before it is molded into a shape.</p> <p>Considering all that must happen to turn a bitter cocoa bean into a chocolate bar, ten rupees seems like a small price to pay for such a delicious sweet treat.</p>		
Q.No.	Write a discursive essay in about 300 words on any one of the given topics. (1x20=20)	CO	KL
10.	Education in mother-tongue	4	4
11.	Use of Artificial Intelligence for writing		
