

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086
(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2011– 12 & thereafter)

SUBJECT CODE: 11EL/FC/EC13

B.A. / B.Sc. / B.V.A. / B.Com./B.S.W. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2013

FIRST SEMESTER

COURSE : FOUNDATION ENGLISH
PAPER : ENGLISH CORE - I
TIME : 3 HOURS **MAX. MARKS : 100**

I. Read the following passages and answer the questions that follow. (2x15=30)

- a. As I sit thinking about this, she comes back into the room and I am filled with hope and eagerness. I half-rise from my chair. 'I have a peacock's feather, let me show it to you', I say to her. But she picks up a book and walks away from me, her long slim brown legs taking her away from me remorselessly. I stare at her slender back, at the thin neck, where little curls grow, endearingly feminine, giving her a childish, vulnerable look. I long to fondle her, to pass my hands over her neck. But I am afraid of being rebuffed. I know she won't respond. I don't have the key to open up this beautiful child, though she is mine. I don't have the key to her father, either. It is as if I am, in my own house, confronted with two closed rooms. I am condemned to sit outside and gaze helplessly at the closed doors.

I force myself to get up. I begin rummaging among my things for the peacock's feather. I have lost, misplaced so many things in my life, but I find the peacock's feather. As I look at it, I am overcome by an onrush of memories. My grandmother used to take me to a temple. I would go with her, quivering in delighted anticipation, for there were peacocks there.

- i. Why is the daughter not interested in listening to her mother? 2 marks
ii. Why is the mother afraid of being insulted by her daughter? 2 marks
iii. How does the mother feel in her own house? What does 'confronted with two closed doors' mean? 4 marks
iv. What do we understand of her childhood from the text? 3 marks
v. Make your own sentences using any four of the words/phrases given below: 4 marks

remorse feminine fondle vulnerable anticipation misplace

- b. "...Before I built a wall I'd ask to know
What I was walling in or walling out,
And to whom I was like to give offence.
Something there is that doesn't love a wall,
That wants it down.' I could say 'Elves' to him,
But it's not elves exactly, and I'd rather

He said it for himself. I see him there
 Bringing a stone grasped firmly by the top
 In each hand, like an old-stone savage armed.
 He moves in darkness as it seems to me
 Not of woods only and the shade of trees.
 He will not go beyond his father's saying,
 And he likes having thought of it so well
 He says again, "Good fences make good neighbours."

1. What do you think is that 'something' that does not love a wall? (2)
2. Why does the poet imagine the neighbor to be like a savage? (2)
3. Give reasons for the neighbor's response "Good fences make good neighbors" (2)
4. What does the poet mean when he says that "he will not go beyond his father's saying"? (2)
5. What do you think is the message conveyed by the poet through this poem? (3)
6. Make your own sentences using any four of the words/phrases given below. The sentences should bring out the meaning of the words in the context of the poem. (4)

offence grasped savage armed saying exactly rather

II. Write a paragraph of 75 words each on any TWO of the following: (2x5=10)

- a. What is the significance of the 'father-in-law's house' in the story *Kabuliwallah*?
- b. How do the children treat the Kelveys at school? And why?
- c. What is the constant reply of the little girl in *We are Seven*? Why does she not agree with the poet's view?
- d. Why does Gulabi throw herself off the bridge in *Wilson's Bridge*?
- e. How does Nirad Chaudhari describe the behaviour of Indians in public spaces in a humourous way?

III. Fill in the blanks choosing words from the list given below: (10 marks)

**real usual broke-in proud tell thought
 turned smile little mark sneered sensation**

When the little girls _____1_____ round and _____2_____, Lil as __3__ gave her silly shamefaced _____4_____ but Else only looked. And Isabel's voice, so very _____5_____, went on telling. The carpet made a great _____6_____, but so did the beds with ___7_____ bedclothes. When she finished Kezia ___8_____. "You've forgotten the lamp, Isabel." "Oh, yes," said Isabel, "and there's a teeny _____9___ lamp, all made of yellow glass, with a white globe that stands on the dining-room table. You couldn't _____10_____ it from the real one.

IV. Write a paragraph of about 100 words on any one of the following: (10 marks)

- a. Dress code and social morality
- b. Healthy life-style
- c. My Favourite tele-serial

V. Develop the following hints into a paragraph of about 75 words. (10 marks)

Homework – exotic bird – Robin – Mother cannot help her daughter- Father refers to books – Peacock – not relevant – mother has seen peacocks in her childhood – immaterial for today’s learning – firsthand experience versus facts found in books – orientation of teachers – shaping of young minds.

VI. Fill in the blanks using appropriate articles: (15 marks)

- (a) Critics call him destiny’s child. He was there at ----1---- right place at ----2---- right time. There could be ---3--- grain of truth in that. But ---4--- larger truth is that Amitabh Bachchan has carved out his own destiny, his own place among ----5--- pantheon of silver screen gods and goddesses. In film after film he was expected to play ---6---the angry young man taking on ---7--- establishment, giving voice to ---8----- voiceless. In *Amar Akbar Anthony* the three sons lie on adjacent beds even as the doctor pumps blood out of their bodies straight into the mother’s! it was -----9---- outrageous idea, but ---10----- masses happily lapped up.
- (b) Translation is ---11---- activity of enormous importance in ----12---- modern world. It is ----13---- subject of interest to ----14---- linguists, translators and language teachers. There are many different points of view regarding whether ----15---- words or ‘ideas’ are to translated.

VII. Fill in the blanks using appropriate prepositions: (15x1=15)

- a. Four years ----1---- the end ---- 2---- war in Northern Sri Lanka, the much-delayed elections ----3---- the first civil administration in the province are ----4---- be held this year.
- b. Various housing schemes initiated ----5---- the World Bank are implemented in the island nation.
- c. The muslims who have returned ----6---- urban Jaffna lack the documents as the urban lands have been fragmented ----7---- generations.
- d. People are caught ----8---- the two forces that have torn them ----9----.
- e. A book ----10---- Delhi ----11---- a Pakistani is “intriguing” given the atmosphere ----12---- hostility that has existed ----13---- India and Pakistan for ----14---- six decades now. This book is creating a stir ----15---- literary circles.
