

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

SUBJECT CODE: 11EL/MC/PR14

B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2013
BRANCH XII – ENGLISH
FIRST SEMESTER

COURSE : MAJOR – CORE

PAPER : PROSE

TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS : 100

I. Attempt a short analysis of any ONE of the following passages with special focus on themes, structure and Technique: (1×15 = 15)

- a. The women were of such an enormous stature, that we appeared as grasshoppers before them: at present the whole sex is in a manner dwarfed and shrunk into a race of beauties that seems almost another species. I remember several ladies, who were once very near seven foot high, that at present want some inches of five: how they came to be thus curtailed I cannot learn; whether the whole sex be at present under any penance which we know nothing of, or whether they have cast their head-dresses in order to surprise us with something in that kind which shall be entirely new; or whether some of the tallest of the sex, being too cunning for the rest, have contrived this method to make themselves appear sizeable, is still a secret; though I find most are of opinion, they are at present like trees new lopped and pruned, that will certainly sprout up and flourish with greater heads than before. For my own part, as I do not love to be insulted by women who are taller than myself; I admire the sex much more in their present humiliation, which has reduced them to their natural dimensions, than when they had extended their persons and lengthened themselves out into formidable and gigantick figures.
- b. The other day, for instance - I just mention this as a terrifying example to show you how low some people can sink - I wanted a cup of coffee and a piece of cheese for tea. It was one of those exceptionally hot days and my wife (once a good Englishwoman, now completely and hopelessly led astray by my wicked foreign influence) made some cold coffee and put it in the refrigerator, where it froze and become one solid block. On the other hand, she left the cheese on the kitchen table, where it melted. So I have a piece of coffee and a glass of cheese.

II. Answer any THREE of the following in about 350 words each : (3 ×15 = 45)

1. What are Bacon's views on ambitious men?
2. Comment on the content and intent of Nelson Mandela's letter to Mrs Manorama Bhalla.
3. Why does Marina Hyde suggest that one should at least keep "some of that inner monologue back from public consumption"?
4. What salutary lessons according to Ramachandra Ghua could urban intellectuals take some from the villagers of Mandya and why?
5. Discuss the seriousness of purpose in the apparently simple essay "On Doing Nothing"

III. Answer any TWO of the following in about 500 words each:**(2 × 20 = 40)**

1. Explain the characteristic features of rhetoric giving examples from speeches prescribed for study.
2. Compare and contrast the style and tone of any two essays prescribed for your study to bring out the uniqueness of its authors.
3. Lamb's humour, humanity, and the sense of pathos are the qualities which differentiate his essays from those of his predecessors and contemporaries. Comment.
4. Write an essay on the article by Shashi Tharoor "Violence and its Manifestations" focusing on the ideas and its presentation.
