

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

SUBJECT CODE: 11EL/FC/EC13

B.A. / B.Sc. / B.V.A. / B.Com./B.S.W. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2011

FIRST SEMESTER

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

I. Read the passages and answer the questions given below: (2x15 = 30)

A. “Why not?” asked Kezia.

Lil gasped, then she said, “Your ma told our ma you wasn’t to speak to us.”

“Oh, well,” said Kezia. She didn’t know what to reply. “It doesn’t matter. You can come and see our doll’s house all the same. Come on. Nobody’s looking.”

But Lil shook her head still harder.

“Don’t you want to?” asked Kezia.

Suddenly there was a twitch, a tug at Lil’s skirt. She turned round. Our Else was looking at her with big, imploring eyes; she was frowning; she wanted to go. For a moment Lil looked at our Else doubtfully. But then our Else twitched her skirt again. She started forward. Kezia led the way. Like two little stray cats they followed her across the courtyard to where the doll’s house stood.

“There it is,” said Kezia.

There was a pause. Lil breathed loudly, almost snorted; our Else was still as a stone.

“I’ll open it for you,” said Kezia kindly. She undid the hook and they looked inside.

“There’s the drawing- room and the dining-room, and that’s the---”

“Kezia!”

It was Aunt Beryl’s voice. They turned round. At the back door stood Aunt Beryl, staring as if she couldn’t believe what she saw.

“How dare you ask the little Kelveys into the courtyard?” said her cold furious voice.

“You know as well as I do, you’re not allowed to talk to them. Run away, children, run away at once. And don’t come back again,” said Aunt Beryl. And she stepped into the yard and shooed them out as if they were chickens.

1. Who are Lil and Else? (1)
2. Lil says, “Your ma told our ma you wasn’t to speak to us.” Why was this instruction given? (2)
3. Of the two girls, who was more eager to see the doll’s house? What did she do to show her eagerness? (2)
4. Quote the line from the text which suggests that they were excited to see the doll’s house. (1)
5. What do you understand about Kezia from this passage? (2)
6. Why was Aunt Beryl furious? (2)

7. "She stepped into the yard and shooed them out as if they were chickens". What do you understand about Aunt Beryl from this? (2)
8. Write your own sentences using any **three** of the words given below. The sentences should bring out the meaning in the context of the passage. (3)
- tug, imploring, stray, courtyard, staring

B. "I brought this box of grapes and these nuts and raisins for the little one," he said. "Please give them to her." Taking them from him, I was about to pay him for them when he suddenly clasped my arm and said, "Please don't give me any money – I shall always be grateful, Babu. Just as you have a daughter, so do I have one, in my own country. It is with her in mind that I came with a few raisins for your daughter; I didn't come to trade with you."

Then he put a hand inside his big loose shirt and took out from somewhere close to his heart a crumpled piece of paper. Unfolding it very carefully, he spread it out on my table. There was a small handprint on the paper; not a photograph, not a painting – the hand had been rubbed with some soot and pressed down on to the paper. Every year Rahamat carried this memento of his daughter in his breast-pocket when he came to sell raisins in Calcutta's streets: as if the touch of that soft, small, childish hand brought solace to his huge, homesick breast. My eyes swam at the sight of it. I forgot then that he was an Afghan raisin-seller and I was a Bengali Babu. I understood then that he was as I am, just a father. The handprint of his little mountain-dwelling Parvati reminded me of my own Mini.

At once I sent for her from the inner part of the house. Objections came back; I refused to listen to them. Mini, dressed as a bride, came timidly into the room and stood close by me.

1. Who is the 'little one' referred to? (1)
 2. Why did the Kabuliwala refuse to take money for the box of fruits? (2)
 3. Why was the crumpled piece of paper important to the Kabuliwala? (3)
 4. What is the Kabuliwala's name? Which is his 'own country'? (2)
 5. Explain the statement: 'He was as I am, just a father.' (2)
 6. Why did Mini's father refuse to listen to the objections raised when he sent for Mini? (2)
 7. Write your own sentences using any **three** of the words given below. The sentences should bring out the meaning in the context of the passage. (3)
- clasped, grateful, unfold, memento, homesick

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

- a. Why is Wilson's bridge haunted by ghosts in Ruskin Bond's short story 'Wilson's Bridge'?
- b. Write about the mother-daughter relationship in 'Why a Robin'?
- c. What is the little cottage girl's attitude to death in 'We are Seven'?
- d. How do the candles represent the faith of the persona's wife in 'The Second Candle'?

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

forums pre-talkie eternal ants sounds heard streams movies
underground holes novel crowded

I had heard about this habit before I went to England, but to meet the silence at first hand was a wholly _____ experience. To me it seemed that not even their _____ and agoras could be associated with characteristic _____. Life in London, even in the most _____ streets, seemed like a film of _____ days. I had an uncanny sensation when I saw unending _____ of people going along Oxford Street and _____ no sound. As they moved into the _____ stations they looked like long lines of _____ going into their _____.

IV. Write a paragraph of about 75 words on any ONE of the following: (10 marks)

- a. Food and Nutrition Day
- b. Friendship

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

Violence in movies – influence on young people – they consider it common and natural - try to imitate scenes – think it is heroic to be violent – increase in the number of crimes among the youth – violence in movies should be banned.

VI. Fill in the blanks using appropriate articles:**(15x1=15)**

Many people do not know about _____ existence of _____ child help-line number 1098. _____ survey was conducted by _____ organisation in Chennai and it shows that 85% of _____ respondents are unaware of _____ helpline. _____ awareness campaign among children is necessary so that any child in trouble can make _____ call to _____ helpline. Teachers play _____ major role in protecting _____ rights of children. If they come across _____ child who seems to have problems, they should speak to _____ child and find out what is threatening _____ safety of _____ child.

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

Ecology is the scientific study _____ the relations that living organisms have _____ each other and their natural environment. Many students now- a- days are interested _____ this subject and they opt _____ a course _____ Ecology offered _____ the Department of Biology. There is an increasing demand _____ qualified experts in this field. Human ecology focuses _____ humans, dealing _____ the relationship _____ humans and their natural environment. The term 'human ecology' first appeared in a sociological study _____ 1921 and _____ times has been equated _____ geography. The history of ecology can be traced _____ the Greeks and the term ecology was coined _____ Haeckel in 1866.

