

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

SUBJECT CODE: 11EL/FC/LS13

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

COURSE : FOUNDATION COURSE - ENGLISH
PAPER : LANGUAGE AND STUDY SKILLS
TIME : 3 HOURS **MAX. MARKS : 100**

I. Expand the idea contained in the following statement; choose any one.1x10= 10 marks

a. Our greatest glory is not in never falling but in rising up every time we fall.

OR

b. Adversity introduces a man to himself.

II a. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow: 1x10= 10 marks

The Olympic Games

In ancient Greece athletic festivals were very important and had strong religious associations. The Olympian athletic festival, held every four years in honor the winner of Zeus, eventually lost its local character, became first a national event and then after the rules against foreign competitors had been waived, international. No one knows exactly how far back the Olympic Games go, but some official records date from 776 B.C.

The games took place in August on the plain by Mount Olympus. Many thousands of spectators gathered from all parts of Greece, but no married woman was admitted even as a spectator. Slaves, women and dishonored persons were not allowed to compete. The exact sequence of events is uncertain, but events included boys' gymnastics, horse –racing, field events such as discus and javelin throwing, and the very important foot races. There was also boxing and wrestling and special tests of varied ability such as the pentathlon, the winner of which excelled in running, jumping, discus and javelin throwing and wrestling. The evening of the third day was devoted to sacrificial offerings to the heroes of the day, and the fourth day, that of the full moon, was set aside as a holy day.

On the sixth and last day all the victors were crowned with holy garlands of wild olive from a sacred wood. So great was the honor that the winner of the foot race gave his name to the year of his victory. Although Olympic winners received no prize money, they were, in fact, richly rewarded by their state authorities. The public honour also made the strict discipline of the ten-month training period worthwhile. In spite of the lengthy training, however runners were known to drop dead from the strain at the winning post. How their results compared with modern standards, we unfortunately have no means of telling.

After an uninterrupted history of almost 1200 years, the Games were abolished in A.D. 394, the Christian era, because of their pagan origin. It was over 1500 years before there was another such international athletics gathering. The Greek institution was revived in 1896 and the first small meeting took place in Athens. After the 1908 London Olympics, success was re-established and nations sent their best representatives. In times of peace, the Games have taken place ever since at four-yearly intervals. In Munich in 1972, competitors from more than 120 countries were watched by huge crowds.

Nowadays, the Games are held in different countries in turn. The host country provides vast facilities, including a stadium, swimming pools and living accommodation, but competing countries pay their own athletes' expenses. Athletic contests are still the main feature, but now many more sports are represented, and women compete. The ancient pentathlon, for example, has been modified into a more comprehensive test, and the marathon races initiated in 1896, are now a celebrated event.

The Olympics start with the arrival in the stadium of a torch, lighted on Mount Olympus by the sun's rays. It is carried by a succession of runners to the stadium. The torch symbolizes the continuation of the ancient Greek athletic ideals, and it burns throughout the Games until the closing ceremony. The well-known Olympic flag, however, is a modern conception: the five interlocking rings symbolize the uniting of all continents participating in the Games.

A Choose the right answer:

1. The first Olympic Games took place

- a) in the seventh century A.D.
- b) certainly before 700 B. C.
- c) over three thousand years ago.
- d) a thousand years ago

2. In the final stages of the ancient Olympic Games, any competitor had to be

- a) Greek
- b) Male
- c) Unmarried
- d) Neither a slave nor a foreigner

3. The order of athletic events at the ancient Olympics

- a) Has not definitely been established
- b) Varied according to the full moon
- c) Was decided by Zeus, in whose honour the Games were held
- d) Was considered unimportant

4. During the Games , on the evening before the moon was full,

- a) Heroes were sacrificed to Zeus
- b) Large sums of money were distributed to the heroes
- c) All the victors were crowned with garlands
- d) The heroes were honoured with sacrificial offerings

5. Competitors had to train

- a) For four years
- b) For ten months
- c) Until they collapsed
- d) For periods determined by their state authorities

6. Modern athletes' results cannot be compared with those of the ancient runners because

- a) details such as times were not recorded in the past
- b) they are much better
- c) the ancient runners fell down dead
- d) the Greeks had no means of telling the time

7. The continuity of the Olympic Games

- a) Was broken in the year A.D.1200
- b) Has never been broken
- c) Was interrupted for over 1,500 years
- d) Was broken in 1896

8. Nowadays, the athletes' expenses are paid for

- out of the national funds of competing nations
- out of the prize money of the winners
- by the athletes themselves
- by commercial organizations

9. At the beginning of the Games in the host country

- a torch is ignited at sunrise.
- a lighted torch is brought into the stadium
- relays of runners light their torches in the stadium
- a torch is ignited by the Greek ambassador

10. The modern Olympics compared with the ancient ones are

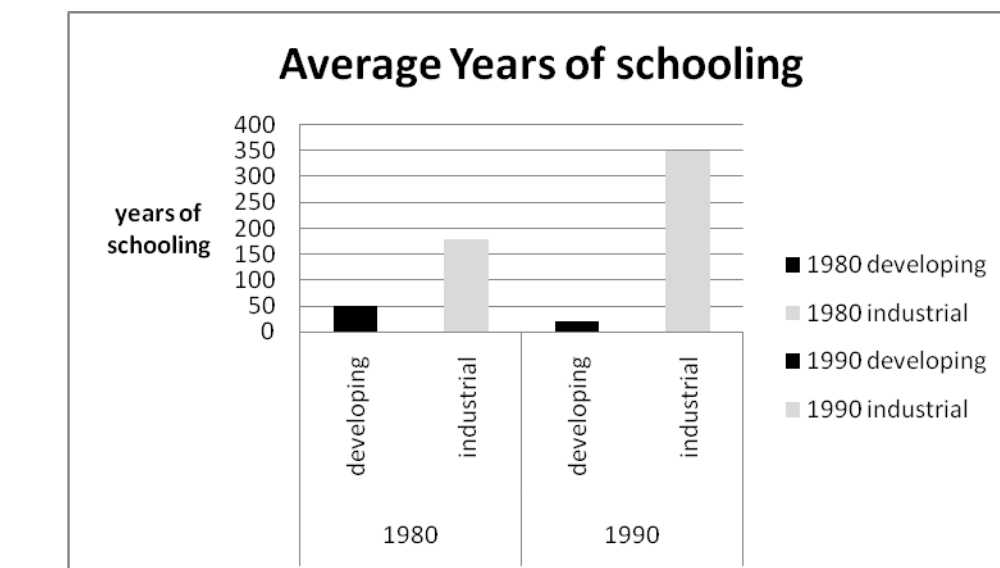
- inspired by the same ideals
- completely different in every respect
- more restricted in the variety of events
- too much concerned with international rivalry

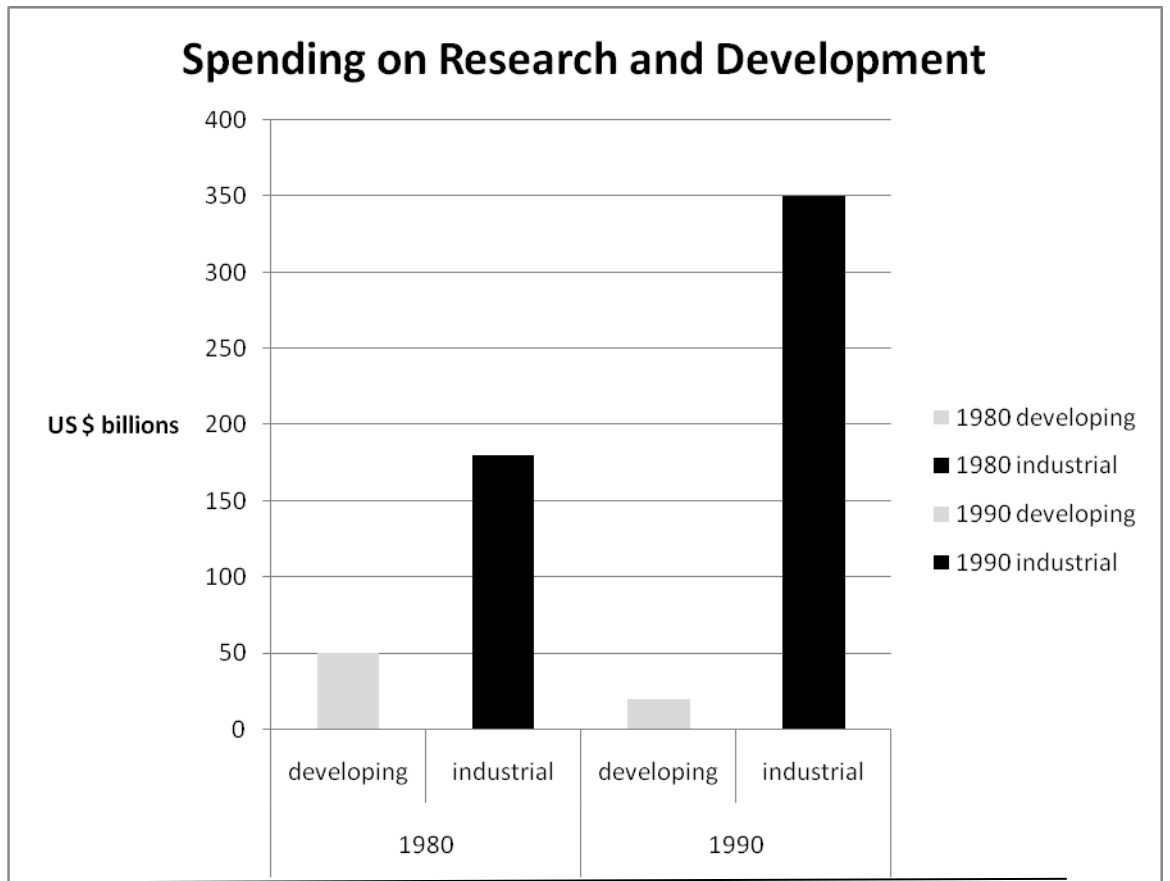
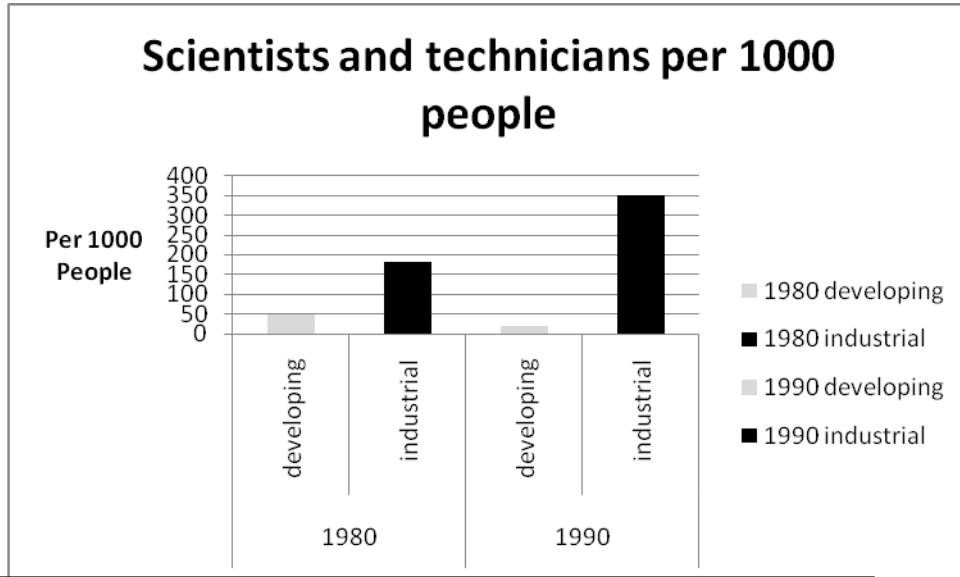
II b. Say whether the following statements are true or false:**5x1= 5 marks**

- We can ascertain when the Olympic Games first took place because records date from 776 B.C.
- Originally the only permitted competitors were those whose position in society was respected.
- Because the ten-month period of training was so strenuous, competitors who did not achieve success felt that their efforts were wasted.
- The intensive training gave all runners the strength to withstand even the strain of the great races.
- As there is a greater variety of sports nowadays, athletic events have lost their importance.

III. The chart below shows the levels of participation in education and science in developing and industrialized countries in 1980 and 1990.**1x10= 10 marks**

Write a report for a university lecturer describing the information given below:





IV. Give a list of instructions for your favorite recipe (minimum five steps): 5 marks

V. Write short notes on any five of the following:

5x2= 10 marks

- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|------------|----------|
| a. Foot notes | b. Glossary | c. Preface | d. Index |
| e. Contents | f. End notes | g. Blurb | |

VI. Using the information given below prepare a bibliography:**10 marks**

Michael J. Wallace Cambridge University Press Study Skills in English 1980
Cambridge.

Correct Writing Eugenia Butler, Mary Ann Hickman, Lalla Overby Third edition
D.C,Health and Company Lexington 1980.

Cambridge University Press Gerald Peter Mosback and Vivienne Mosbach Cambridge
Practical Faster Reading 1976.

Sarah Freeman Written Communication 1977 Orient Longman New Delhi.

English Comprehension and Summary R.W.Noble Longmans 1968 Great Britain.

VII. Define a brochure and describe its structure.**5 marks****VIII. Read the following passage and make notes:****10 marks**

Most of the people who appear most often and most gloriously in the history books are great conquerors and soldiers, whereas the people who really helped civilization forward are often not mentioned at all. We do not know who first set a broken leg or launched a seaworthy boat or calculated the length of the year or manured a field; but we know all about the killers and destroyers. People think a great deal about them, so much that on all the highest pillars in the great cities of the world you will find the figure of conquerors or a general or a soldier. And I think most people believe that the greatest countries are those that have been beaten in battle the greatest number of other countries and ruled over them as conquerors. It is just possible they are, but they are not the most civilized. Animals fight; so do savages; hence to be good at fighting is to be good in the way in which an animal or a savage is good, but it is not to be civilized. Even being good at getting other people to fight for you and telling them how to do it most efficiently- this after all, is what conquerors and generals have done- is not being civilized. People fight to settle quarrels. Fighting means killing, and civilized peoples ought to be able to find some way of settling their disputes other than by seeing which side can kill off the great number of the other side and then saying that that side which has killed most has won. And not only has won, but because it has won, has been in the right. For that is what going to war means; it means saying that might is right.

That is what the story of mankind has on the whole been like. Even our own age has fought the two greatest wars in history, in which millions of people have been killed or mutilated. And while today it is true that people do not fight and kill each other in the streets – while, that is to say we have got to the stage of keeping the rules and behaving properly to each other in daily life – nations and countries have not learnt to do this yet, and still behave like savages.

But we must not expect too much. After all, the race of men has only just started. From the point of view of evolution, human beings are very young children indeed; babies, in fact, of a few months old. Scientists reckon that there has been life of some sort on the earth in the form of jelly fish and that kind of creature for about twelve hundred million years; but there have been men for only one million years and there have been civilized men for about eight thousand years. These figures are difficult to grasp; so let us scale them down.

Suppose that we reckon the whole past of living creatures on the earth as one hundred years; then the whole past of man works out at about one month and during that one month there have been civilizations for between seven and eight hours. So you see there has been little time to learn in but there will be oceans of time in which to learn better. Taking man's civilized period at about seven or eight hours we may estimate his future that is to say, the whole period between now and when the sun grows cold to maintain life any longer on the earth, at about one hundred thousand years. Thus mankind is only at the beginning of its civilized life, and as I say, we must not expect too much. The past of man has been on the whole a pretty beastly business, a business of fighting and bullying and gorging and grabbing and hurting. We must not expect even civilized peoples not to have done these things. All we can ask is that they will sometimes have done something else.

IX. Write a short summary of the passage above based on the notes you have made.

10 marks

X a. Fill in the blanks with appropriate articles and prepositions:

5 marks

All of us have read thrilling stories in which hero had specified time to live. Sometimes it was as long as..... year; sometimes as short as twenty-four hours . But always we were interested discovering just how doomed man chose to spend his last days or his last hours. I speak of course men who have..... choice, not condemned criminals whose sphere of activities is strictly delimited. Such stories set us thinking, wondering what we should dosimilar circumstances. What events, what experiences, what associations should we crowd.....those last hours as mortal beings? What happiness should we find ... reviewing past, what regrets?

b. Fill in the blanks with appropriate forms of the verbs given in the brackets: 5 marks

Sometimes I have thought it would be an excellent rule to live each day as if we would die tomorrow. Such an attitude (emphasize) sharply the values of life. We should live each day with gentleness, vigor and a keenness of appreciation which(be) often.....(lose) when time..... (stretch) before us in the constant panorama of more days and months and years to come. There(be) those of course, who..... (adopt) the epicurean motto of 'eat, drink and be merry', but most people would be.....(chasten) by the certainty of impending death. In stories the doomed hero is usually saved at the last minute by some stroke of fortune, but almost always his sense of values (change).

c. Use the following idioms and phrases in sentences of your own so as to bring out their meanings:

1x5=5 marks

- i) to make a hard and fast distinction
- ii) a stroke of fortune
- iii) to palm off
- iv) to spill the beans
- v) to turn it over in one's mind

