

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

SUBJECT CODE: 11EL/MC/PR14

B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2011
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)

I would desire the fair sex to consider how impossible it is for them to add any thing that can be ornamental to what is already the master-piece of nature. The head has the most beautiful appearance, as well as the highest station, in a human figure. Nature has laid out all her art in beautifying the face; she has touched it with vermilion, planted in it a double row of ivory, made it the seat of smiles and blushes, lighted it up and enlivened it with the brightness of the eyes, hung it on each side with curious organs of sense, given it airs and graces that cannot be described, and surrounded it with such a flowing shade of hair as sets all its beauties in the most agreeable light. In short, she seems to have designed the head as the cupola to the most glorious of her works: and when we load it with such a pile of supernumerary ornaments, we destroy the symmetry of the human figure, and foolishly contrive to call off the eye from great and real beauties, to childish gewgaws, ribands and bone-lace.

OR

Wordsworth, to whom we go when most other poets fail us, knew the value of doing nothing; nobody, you may say, could do it better and you may discover in his work the best account of the matter. He lived long enough to retract most of his youthful opinions, but I do not think that he ever went back on his youthful notion that a man could have no healthier and more spiritualising employment than idling about and staring at Nature. (It is true that he is very angry in one poem with some gipsie because they had apparently done absolutely nothing from the time he passed them at the beginning of his walk to the time when he passed again, twelve hours later. But this is racial prejudice, tinged, I suspect, with envy, for though he had not done much, they had done even less). If he were alive today I have no doubt he would preach his doctrine more fervently and more frequently than ever. He could tell us that the whole world would be better off if it spent every possible moment it could, these next ten years; lying flat on its back on a moon doing nothing. And he would be right.

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

- a. How does “Tea” become a wholesome beverage according to George Mikes?
- b. What does “the Last Letter” of Nehru to his daughter Indira reveal about Nehru as a father and a statesman?

- c. Discuss the significance of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address in the context of its background.
- d. What are the romantic features of Charles Lamb's "Dream Children"?
- e. Comment on Bacon's style with reference to his essay "Of Ambition".

III. Answer any Two of the following in about 500 words :

(2 × 20 = 40)

- a. Discuss the features of rhetoric with reference to any one of the speeches prescribed for you.
- b. Identify characteristics of J.B. Priestley's style and purpose in his essay "On Doing Nothing".
- c. Discuss the importance of Nelson Mandela's letter to Mrs. Manorama Bhallay, secretary of the Indian Council for Cultural relations.
- d. Comment on the relevance of Ramachandra Guha's observations in his article "The Locality and the Nation".
