

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

SUBJECT CODE: 11EL/FC/EC23

B.A./ B.Sc./ B.S.W./B.V.A./B.Com./B.C.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2014
SECOND SEMESTER

COURSE : FOUNDATION CORE
PAPER : ENGLISH CORE - II
TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS: 100

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

- a. When Bishan Singh was brought out and asked to give his name so that it could be recorded in a register, he asked the official behind the desk: 'Where is Toba Tek Singh? In India or Pakistan?'
'Pakistan,' he answered with a vulgar laugh.
Bishan Singh tried to run, but was overpowered by the Pakistani guards who tried to push him across the dividing line towards India. However, he wouldn't move. 'This is Toba Tek Singh,' he announced. *'Uper the gurgur the annexe the bay dhayanamung the dal of Toba Tek Singh and Pakistan.'*
Many efforts were made to explain to him that Toba Tek Singh had already been moved to India, or would be moved immediately, but it had no effect on Bishan Singh. The guards even tried force, but soon gave up.
There he stood in no man's land on his swollen legs like a colossus.
Since he was a harmless old man, no further attempt was made to push him into India. He was allowed to stand where he wanted, while the exchange continued. The night wore on.
Just before sunrise, Bishan Singh, the man who had stood on his legs for fifteen years, screamed and as officials from the two sides rushed towards him, he collapsed to the ground.
There, behind barbed wire, on one side, lay India and behind more barbed wire, on the other side, lay Pakistan. In between, on a bit of earth which had no name, lay Toba Tek Singh.

1. Why was Bishan Singh interested in getting information about the small town of Toba Tek Singh? (3)
2. How did Bishan Singh react when the Pakistani guards tried to push him across the border to India? (3)
3. What is "the exchange" that is being referred to in the passage? (3)
4. Why did the soldiers permit Bishan Singh to stand where he wanted? (3)
5. Make sentences of your own with any **three** of the following words: (3)
Force recorded collapsed immediately announced attempt

- b. He was there for a day
when they had the floods.
People everywhere talked
of the inches rising,

of the precise number of cobbled steps
run over by the water, rising
on the bathing places,
and the way it carried off three village houses,
one pregnant woman

and a couple of cows
named Gopi and Brinda as usual.

The new poets still quoted
the old poets, but no one spoke
in verse
of the pregnant woman
drowned, with perhaps twins in her,
kicking at blank walls
even before birth.

1. What did the people talk about when the river was in flood? (5)
2. What does the poet persona say about the works of the new poets? (2)
3. What remains unmentioned in the works of both old and new poets? (3)
4. Read the following sentences and state whether they are true or false: (5)
 - a. The poet persona had visited Madurai during the floods.
 - b. The flood did not destroy anything.
 - c. The people talked about the gradual increase in the water level of the river.
 - d. The poet persona is happy with what the poets wrote about in their poems.
 - e. The pregnant woman may have been carrying twins who died even before birth.

II Answer TWO of the following in not less than 150 words each. (2x10=20 marks)

1. Discuss Elizabeth Barrett Browning's idea of love expressed in her poem 'If thou must love me'.
2. The story 'Dahlia' reflects the condition of aged parents in today's world. How does it do so?
3. Why does Chief Seattle believe that the white man has no respect or love for Mother Earth?
4. Describe the experiences of the boy who went for a walk with his father in the story 'Father and I'.

III Write an essay on ONE of the following in about 200 words. (1x15=15 marks)

1. A rainy day in Chennai
2. Mother-daughter relationships
3. A student's role in protecting the environment

IV Fill in the blanks with the appropriate tense of the verbs given. (1x15=15 marks)

“Khushwant Singh was one of the greatest people I _____ (have) the privilege to know,” said David Davidar, Co-founder and Publisher, Aleph Book Company. “When they _____ (make) him, they _____ (break) the mould and I am sure I _____ (never meet) his like again. His achievements _____ (be) off the charts; he _____ (come) from one of Delhi’s elite families; he was courted by the rich and famous but none of these _____ (affect) him in the slightest. He was humble, accessible, generous and _____ (tell) the truth as he _____ (know) it without fear or favour. That _____ (be) the greatness of the man and he will be sorely missed.”

“One of the last times I _____ (meet) Khushwant, he _____ (say) to me that he still _____ (read) a book a week,” said Chiki Sarkar, Publisher, Penguin Random House. “It’s the most inspiring thing I _____ (ever hear) – and that’s why Khushwant was such a beloved figure for writers and publishers. At heart, he was a great books man, who _____ (care) passionately about words and ideas and writers.

V Choose the verb that agrees with the subject. (10x1=10marks)

1. I (believe, believes) in the power of the theatre to change lives.
2. Two letters and a photograph (was, were) found in the soldier’s pocket.
3. Either the class representative or the assistant class representative (has, have) to attend the meeting.
4. Idli and chutney (is, are) a favourite dish among people in South India.
5. Your baggage (is, are) on the trolley.
6. One of the boys (come, comes) by train from Perambur.
7. The Prime Minister, along with the officials, (board, boards) the plane.
8. People all over the world (are praying, is praying) for the safety of the passengers on the missing plane.
9. A little more sugar (is, are) necessary to enhance the flavour of the dish.
10. Noone (like, likes) to be in trouble.

VI Choose the appropriate words to fill in the blanks. (10x1=10 marks)

accepted while since habit coming opened
appearance your and said of a

Mrs Ebrahimi, the supervisor of the ward, _____ the door and called, ‘Mrs Taheri, your son’s here.’

The old woman on the next bed moved her body on the bed _____ scratching herself. The son was young, but he had a dishevelled _____. The back _____ his blouse was sticking out of his trousers, _____ his collar was open. As she was _____ forward, Mrs, Ebrahimi _____, ‘Sir, it’s three weeks _____ I left a message for you, saying that _____ mother should be sent to _____ hospital.’
