

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

SUBJECT CODE: 11EL/MC/FN24
B. A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2014
BRANCH XII – ENGLISH
SECOND SEMESTER

COURSE : MAJOR – CORE
PAPER : FICTION - I
TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS : 100

SECTION A

I. Answer any FOUR of the following in about 100 words each. (4x5=20)

- a. Why did Charlotte Lucas marry Reverend Collins? Discuss her role in the novel.
- b. Discuss the aptness of the title of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.
- c. What is the role of Miss. Havisham in Dickens' *Great Expectations*?
- d. List the great expectations of Pip in Dickens' novel.
- e. Elaborate on the techniques used by Tolstoy in *How Much Land Does a Man Need*?
- f. Write a note on characterization in Guy de Maupassant's *The Charm Dispelled*.

SECTION B

II. Answer the following in about 500 words each. (3x20=60)

1. a. Comment on the themes and techniques used in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*
or
b. How does Elizabeth's visit to Pemberley change the entire course of the novel?
2. a. How is London portrayed in Dickens' *Great Expectations*?
or
b. *Great Expectations* "depicts a process of maturation and self-discovery through experience as the protagonist moves from childhood to adulthood". Discuss.
3. a. Attempt a critical appreciation of Maupassant's *The Charm Dispelled*.
or
b. How is human greed portrayed in Tolstoy's *How Much Land Does a Man Need*?

SECTION C

III. Attempt an analysis of any ONE of the following with reference to theme, characterization and technique. (1x20=20)

A. The visit was returned in due form. Miss Bennet's pleasing manners grew on the good will of Mrs. Hurst and Miss Bingley; and though the mother was found to be intolerable and the younger sisters not worth speaking to, a wish of being better acquainted with them was expressed towards the two eldest.

By Jane this attention was received with the greatest pleasure; but Elizabeth still saw superciliousness in their treatment of everybody, hardly excepting even her sister, and could not like them; though their kindness to Jane, such as it was, had a value, as arising in all probability from the influence of their brother's admiration. It was generally evident whenever they met, that he did admire her and to her it was equally evident that Jane was yielding to the preference which she had begun to entertain for him from the first, and was in a way to be very much in love; but she considered with pleasure that it was not likely to be discovered by the world in general, since Jane united with great strength of feeling a composure of temper and a uniform cheerfulness of manner, which would guard her from the suspicions of the impertinent. She mentioned this to her friend Miss Lucas.

"It may perhaps be pleasant," replied Charlotte, "to be able to impose on the public in such a case; but it is sometimes a disadvantage to be so very guarded. If a woman conceals her affection with the same skill from the object of it, she may lose the opportunity of fixing him; and it will then be but poor consolation to believe the world equally in the dark. There is so much of gratitude or vanity in almost every attachment, that it is not safe to leave any to itself. We can all begin freely – a slight preference is natural enough; but there are very few of us who have heart enough to be really in love without encouragement. In nine cases out of ten, a woman had better show more affection than she feels. Bingley likes your sister undoubtedly; but he may never do more than like her, if she does not help him on."

"But she does help him on, as much as her nature will allow.

If I can perceive her regard for him, he must be a simpleton indeed not to discover it too."

"Remember, Eliza, that he does not know Jane's disposition as you do."

"But if a woman is partial to a man, and does not endeavour to conceal it, he must find it out."

"Perhaps he must, if he sees enough of her. But though Bingley and Jane meet tolerably often, it is never for many hours together; and as they always see each other in large mixed parties, it is impossible that every moment should be employed in conversing together. Jane should therefore make the most of every half hour in which she can command his attention. When she is secure of him, there will be leisure for falling in love as much as she chooses."

B. ‘I am tired,’ said Miss Havisham. ‘I want diversion, and I have done with men and women. Play.’

I think it will be conceded by my most disputatious reader, that she could hardly have directed an unfortunate boy to do anything in the wide world more difficult to be done under the circumstances.

‘I sometimes have sick fancies,’ she went on, ‘and I have a sick fancy that I want to see some play. There, there!’ with an impatient movement of the fingers of her right hand; ‘play, play, play!’

For a moment, with the fear of my sister’s working me before my eyes, I had a desperate idea of starting round the room in the assumed character of Mr Pumblechook’s chaise-cart. But, I felt myself so unequal to the performance that I gave it up, and stood looking at Miss Havisham in what I suppose she took for a dogged manner, in as much as she said, when we had taken a good look at each other:

‘Are you sullen and obstinate?’

‘No, ma’am, I am very sorry for you, and very sorry I can’t play just now. If you complain of me I shall get into trouble with my sister, so I would do it if I could; but it’s so new here, and so strange, and so fine – and melancholy’ – I stopped, fearing I might say too much, or had already said it, and we took another look at each other.

Before she spoke again, she turned her eyes from me, and looked at the dress she wore, and at the dressing-table, and finally at herself in the looking-glass.

‘So new to him,’ she muttered, ‘so old to me; so strange to him, so familiar to me; so melancholy to both of us! Call Estella.’

As she was still looking at the reflection of herself, I thought she was still talking to herself, and kept quiet.

‘Call Estella,’ she repeated, flashing a look at me. ‘You can do that. Call Estella. At the door.’

To stand in the dark in a mysterious passage of an unknown house, bawling Estella to a scornful young lady neither visible nor responsive, and feeling it a dreadful liberty so to roar out her name, was almost as bad as playing to order. But, she answered at last, and her light came along the dark passage like a star.

Miss Havisham beckoned her to come close, and took up a jewel from the table, and tried its effect upon her fair young bosom and against her pretty brown hair. ‘Your own, one day, my dear, and you will use it well. Let me see you play cards with this boy.’

‘With this boy! Why, he is a common labouring-boy!’

I thought I overheard Miss Havisham answer – only it seemed so unlikely – ‘Well? You can break his heart.’

‘What do you play, boy?’ asked Estella of myself, with the greatest disdain.

‘Nothing but beggar my neighbour, miss.’

‘Beggar him,’ said Miss Havisham to Estella. So we sat down to cards.

It was then I began to understand that everything in the room had stopped, like the watch and the clock, a long time ago. I noticed that Miss Havisham put down the jewel exactly on the spot from which she had taken it up. As Estella dealt the cards, I glanced at the dressing-table again, and saw that the shoe upon it, once white, now yellow, had never been worn. I glanced down at the foot from which the shoe was absent, and saw that the silk stocking on it, once white, now yellow, had been trodden ragged. Without this arrest of everything, this standing still of all the pale decayed objects, not even the withered bridal dress on the collapsed form could have looked so like grave-clothes, or the long veil so like a shroud.
