

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

SUBJECT CODE: 11EL/FC/EC13

B.A./ B.Sc./B.V.A./B.Com./B.Com.(CS)/B.S.W./B.C.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION,
NOVEMBER 2014
FIRST SEMESTER

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

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

- a. As I sit thinking about this, she comes back into the room and I am filled with hope and eagerness. I half-rise from my chair. 'I have a peacock's feather, let me show it to you,' I say to her. But she picks up a book and walks away from me, her long, slim brown legs taking her away from me remorselessly. I stare at her slender back, at the thin neck, where little curls grow, endearingly feminine, giving her a childish, vulnerable look. I long to fondle her, to pass my hands over her neck. But I am afraid of being rebuffed. I know she won't respond. I don't have the key to open up this beautiful child, though she is mine. I don't have the key to her father, either. It is as if I am, in my own house, confronted with two closed rooms. I am condemned to sit outside and gaze helplessly at the closed doors.

I force myself to get up. I begin rummaging among my things for a peacock's feather. I have lost, misplaced so many things in my life, but I find the peacock's feather. As I look at it, I am overcome by an onrush of memories...

1. Why is the mother filled with hope when her daughter returns to the room? (4)
2. What does the mother compare her daughter and husband to and why? (4)
3. What does she mean when she says, "I am afraid of being rebuffed"? (3)
4. Make your own sentences using any four of the words/phrases given below.
The sentences should bring out the meaning of the words in the context of the passage. (4)

| | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| eagerness | gaze | slender | stare at | rummage |
| vulnerable | condemned | respond | overcome by | |

- b. I met a little cottage girl:
She was eight years old, she said;
Her hair was thick with many a curl
That clustered round her head.

She had a rustic, woodland air,
And she was wildly clad:
Her eyes were fair, and very fair;
—Her beauty made me glad.

“Sisters and brothers, little maid,
How many may you be?”
“How many? Seven in all,” she said,
And wondering looked at me.

“And where are they? I pray you tell.”
She answered, “Seven are we;
And two of us at Conway dwell,
And two are gone to sea.

“Two of us in the churchyard lie,
My sister and my brother;
And, in the churchyard cottage, I
Dwell near them with my mother.”

“You say that two at Conway dwell,
And two are gone to sea,
Yet ye are seven! I pray you tell,
Sweet maid, how this may be.”

1. In your own words, describe the appearance of the little girl. (4)
2. According to the little girl how many siblings does she have and where are they? (4)
3. Why is the person confused by her answer? (3)
4. Make your own sentences using any three of the words/phrases given below. The sentences should bring out the meaning of the words in the context of the poem. (4)

| | | | | |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------|
| curl | clustered | wondering | dwell | clad |
| look at | glad | wildly | rustic | |

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

- a. How did Mini and the Kabuliwala become friends? Describe how Mini’s parents reacted to their friendship.
- b. Describe the incidents through which Nirad C. Chaudhuri contrasts the warmth of the Indians with the coldness of the British.
- c. What does the poet ‘wonder at’ in the poem ‘The Second Candle’?
- d. What are the reasons put forward by the poet for not having a wall between his property and his neighbour’s?

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

| | | | | | |
|-------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| idle | shattered | rare | recovered | closed | resentment |
| away | brushed | lay | fashion | dalliance | steep |

Gulabi brought up her children in village style. She heard stories of Wilson's _____ with the Mussoorie woman and, on one of his _____ visits, she confronted him and voiced her _____, demanding that he leave the other woman. He _____ her aside and told her not to listen to _____ gossip. When he turned _____ from her, she picked up the flintlock pistol that _____ on the gun table, and fired a shot at him. The bullet missed him and _____ the looking glass. Gulabi ran into the forest, then down the _____ path to the bridge built by Wilson only two or three years before. When he had _____ his composure, he mounted his horse and came looking for her. It was too late.

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

- a. The Asian Games
- b. Class and Caste Prejudices
- c. My Favourite Book

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

Mrs. Hay gifts a doll's house – children excited – tell friends – they come to see it – two at a time – Kelvey children listen eagerly – not invited – Lena Logan insults the Kelvey children – Kezia invites them.

VI. Fill in the blanks using appropriate articles: (15 marks)

1. Did you see _____ movie about Dian Fossey's work with mountain gorillas?
It was _____ amazing film.
2. I would love to take _____ luxury cruise next year to _____ exotic location such as Indonesia or Panama.
3. Let's find _____ place where we can just sit for _____ couple of hours, drink some coffee, and have a good chat.
4. Suddenly, _____ password Sandra always used to log in to her email didn't work anymore.
5. When Nick was trekking in the mountains, he saw _____ eagle hunting prey.
6. Did you enjoy _____ book I recommended to you? Wasn't it _____ exciting novel?
7. Please give me _____ cake that is on _____ counter.
8. I have _____ horse of my own. She is _____ intelligent animal.
9. One of the students said, "_____ Professor is late today".

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

The chameleon is a relative _____ the lizard. It can be found _____ Africa and Madagascar. You can also find it _____ some parts of Asia and southern Europe. Some varieties of chameleons can grow _____ a length of sixty centimeters. However, the most common variety does not grow more than thirty centimeters long.

The most interesting feature _____ the chameleon is that it is able to change colour. It is able to change quickly _____ white to yellow, black, green or brown. It is able to do this because of the differences _____ light and temperature of its surroundings.

The chameleon lives in trees. It holds on to branches _____ its tail and feet while it reaches out to catch its prey. The chameleon can remain very still _____ a branch _____ hours. It has a long, sticky tongue. It can shoot out its tongue _____ a distance of 10 centimetres.

The chameleons' eyes are independently mobile, but in aiming _____ a prey, the eyes focus forward _____ coordination, affording the animal stereoscopic vision. Some chameleons have a crest of small spikes extending _____ the spine from the tail to the neck.

They are often kept _____ household pets.
