

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

SUBJECT CODE: 11EL/MC/PR14

B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2014
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)

- a. You have spent at least several days rushing from one to the other, explaining everywhere how desperately busy you are, with one eighteen-hour day after another, secretaries fainting, wife telephoning to the doctor about you; no time to eat properly, just living on brandy and mysterious blue capsules. Then, slap in the middle of all this hullabaloo, pack it up for a day or two, allowing each gang to conclude you are toiling for one of the other gangs, and do nothing, absolutely nothing... yawn and stretch...; glance at newspapers, dip into light literature, and gossip; but no more. No gardening, sharp walks, correspondence, nor even jobs about the house. Get as close to doing nothing as it is possible for a Western Aryan or whoever we are. Give an occasional thought, for spice and devilment, to the worrying colleagues. Refuse to answer the telephone—too busy. It is a dirty trick—but delicious.

OR

- b. You definitely must not follow my example. I sleep at five o'clock in the morning; I have coffee for breakfast; I drink innumerable cups of black coffee during the day; I have the most unorthodox and exotic teas even at tea-time. The other day, for instance - I just mention this as a terrifying example to show you how low some people can sink - I wanted a cup of coffee and a piece of cheese for tea. It was one of those exceptionally hot days and my wife (once a good Englishwoman, now completely and hopelessly led astray by my wicked foreign influence) made some cold coffee and put it in the refrigerator, where it froze and became one solid block. On the other hand, she left the cheese on the kitchen table, where it melted. So I had a piece of coffee and a glass of cheese.

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

- a. How does Charles Lamb present the autobiographical elements in the essay *Dream Children*?
- b. Nehru's letters to his daughter are a powerful tool for laying the foundation of education. Examine.
- c. Analyse how Kevin Rudd aims to correct the injustice administered to Australia's Indigenous people?
- d. Discuss the contents of Ramachandra Guha's *The Locality and the Nation*.
- e. Critically examine the arguments of Wangari Maathai on environment and politics.

III. Answer any TWO of the following in about 500 words each: (2 × 20 = 40)

- a. Evaluate the qualities of Bacon's prose style with special reference to *Of Ambition*.
- b. Letters are a powerful means of communication. Discuss with reference to any letter prescribed for your study.
- c. State Sam Roberts' views on the semi-colon.
- d. How effectively does Lincoln's brevity confer a poetic resonance to his words?
