

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086

(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2004 – 05)

SUBJECT CODE: EL/MC/PR54

B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2007

BRANCH XII – ENGLISH

FIFTH SEMESTER

COURSE : MAJOR – CORE

PAPER : PROSE

TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS : 100

SECTION - A

I. Analyse the following passages with reference to context, content, theme, tone and style: (2x15=30)

1. As he gave out his text, his voice “rose like a steam of rich and distilled perfumes,” and when he came to the last two words, which he pronounced loud, deep and distinct, it seemed to me, who was then young, as if the sounds had echoed from the bottom of the human heart; ...
The idea of St. John came into mind, ‘of one crying in the wilderness, who had his loins girt about and whose food was locusts and wild honey.’ ...
he made a poetical and pastoral exercise and for myself, I could not have been more delighted if I had heard the music of the spheres. (William Hazlitt – ‘My First Acquaintance with Poets’)
2. Its most immediate contradiction is that while it seems to offer the individual token woman a means to realize her creativity, to influence the course of events, it also by exacting of her certain kinds of behaviour and style acts to blur her outsider’s eye, which could be her real source of power and vision. She loses the insight – which both binds her to other women and affirms her in herself. (Adrienne Rich, ‘What Does a Woman Need to Know?’)

SECTION B

I. Answer any THREE of the following choosing not less than One from each section. (3x10=30)

- A.
 1. Comment on the arguments used by R. L. Stevenson to make a case for idlers in his “Apology for Idlers”.
 2. ‘On Knocking at the Gate in Macbeth’ reveals De Quincey’s fascination for the mysterious side of life, for the night side of things. Discuss.
 3. Robert Lynd seems to think it is impossible to be a philosopher in real life. Do you agree or not? Give reasons for your answer.
 4. ‘The genius of Charles Lamb, lay in his power of visualizing memories’. How far is this true of Lamb’s style in ‘Dream Children’?
- B.
 5. Account for the literary appeal of Nehru’s ‘Tryst with Destiny’.
 6. Would you consider Burke’s ‘Indictment of Warren Hastings’ brilliant? Comment on the stylistic features of this speech.
 7. Comment on the oratorical style of Lincoln in his ‘Gettysburg Address’.
 8. Comment on the major ideas in Faulkner’s ‘Nobel Prize’ acceptance speech.

SECTION C

I. Answer any TWO of the following. (2x20=40)

1. Comment on the features of the travelogue as seen in Naipaul's "An Area of Darkness".
2. Louis Fischer's biography of Gandhi is a balanced portrayal of the Mahatma, and goes beyond the myth. Comment on the arguments used to achieve this.
3. How does the Gospel according to St. Luke become sublime literature?
4. Compare and contrast oratorical devices with the devices used by essayists.
5. Describe the essential features of Prose as a genre.
6. Discuss the literary merits of a great speech.
