

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

SUBJECT CODE: 11EL/FC/EC43

B.A./ B.Sc./ B.S.W. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2015  
FOURTH SEMESTER

COURSE : FOUNDATION CORE

PAPER : ENGLISH CORE - IV

TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS: 100

I. A. Read the following passages and answer the questions that follow. (15 marks)

The boy watched as his companion went to his horse and withdrew a scimitar. With its blade, he drew a circle in the sand, and then he placed the snake within it. The serpent relaxed immediately.

“Not to worry,” said the alchemist. “He won’t leave the circle. You found life in the desert, the omen that I needed.”

“Why was that important?”

“Because the pyramids are surrounded by the desert.”

The boy didn’t want to talk about the pyramids. His heart was heavy, and he had been melancholy since the previous night. To continue his search for the treasure meant that he had to abandon Fatima.

“I’m going to guide you across the desert,” the alchemist said.

“I want to stay at the oasis,” the boy answered. “I’ve found Fatima, and, as far as I’m concerned, she’s worth more than treasure.”

“Fatima is a woman of the desert,” said the alchemist. “She knows that men have to go away in order to return. And she already has her treasure: it’s you. Now she expects that you will find what it is you are looking for.”

1. The boy didn’t want to talk about the pyramids, he wanted to stay at the oasis. Why? (4)
2. What does the alchemist say about Fatima? (4)
3. What is the omen the alchemist is talking about? Why does he say that it is important? (4)
4. Make sentences of your own using any **three** of the words given below bringing out their meaning in the passage: (3)

guide	pyramids	worth
withdrew	abandon	relax

B. Read the following passages and answer the questions that follow. (15 marks)

He became friendly with the camel driver who travelled alongside him. At night, as they sat around the fire, the boy related to the driver his adventures as a shepherd.

During one of these conversations, the driver told of his own life.

“I used to live near El Cairum,” he said. “I had my orchard, my children, and a life that would change not at all until I died. One year, when the crop was the best ever, we all went to Mecca, and I satisfied the only unmet obligation in my life. I could die happily, and that made me feel good.

“One day, the earth began to tremble, and the Nile overflowed its banks. It was something that I thought could happen only to others, never to me. My neighbours feared they would lose all their olive trees in the flood, and my wife was afraid that we would lose our children. I thought that everything I owned would be destroyed.

“The land was ruined, and I had to find some other way to earn a living. So now I’m a camel driver. But that disaster taught me to understand the word of Allah: people need not fear the unknown if they are capable of achieving what they need and want.

1. Describe the camel driver’s life when he lived near El Cairum. (4)
2. What does the camel driver say about the disaster that changed his life? (4)
3. What did he learn from the disaster? (3)
4. Make sentences of your own using any **four** of the words given below bringing out their meaning in the passage: (4)

tremble	disaster	ruined	bank
obligation	orchard	capable	

**II. Answer one of the following in not less than three paragraphs. (1x10=10 marks)**

1. What were the boy’s experiences in the crystal shop?
2. Describe Santiago’s journey through the desert until he reaches the oasis.

**III. Construct a dialogue, with a minimum of ten exchanges, around one of the situations given below. (10 marks)**

1. Between Santiago and his father after he decides to leave the seminary
2. Between the candy seller and the boy after he loses all his money at the marketplace

**IV. Write an essay in not less than 250 words on one of the following. (5 marks for the outline and 15 marks for the essay = 20 marks)**

1. The Joy of Giving
2. Corruption and Power
3. The Importance of Self-discipline

**V a. Write a letter in response to the following advertisements in a newspaper: (10 marks)**

A Chemical Manufacturing Company requires Degree/Diploma holders in Chemical Engineering as management trainees. Apply to Management Solutions Pvt. Ltd, Nungambakkam, Chennai, 600 034.

**OR**

Large dress designing establishment in city centre requires persons to train as dress designers. Excellent prospects for suitable applicants. Apply in writing to BOX 416, "FASHION TIMES".

**b. Write a letter of complaint to the Municipality about the illegal hoardings on the footpath near the Children’s Hospital which pose a threat to road users.**

**OR**

**Write a letter to the PWD complaining about the improper maintenance of roads along the route you take to college. (10 marks)**

**VI. Fill in the blanks choosing appropriate word/words from the list provided.**

**Rewrite the passage after filling in the blanks with appropriate words: (10 marks)**

competed with	precautions	refuge	curious
inhabitants	precious	neutral	spiritual
caravan	relieved	incessantly	lucky

They were surrounded by children, ----- to look at the animals and people that were arriving. The men of the oasis wanted to know if they had seen any fighting, the women ----- one another for access to the cloth and----- stones brought by the merchants. The silence of the desert was a distant dream; the travelers in the caravan were talking -----, laughing and shouting, as if they had emerged from the ----- world and found themselves once again in the world of people. They were ----- and happy.

They had been careful taking ----- in the desert, but the camel driver explained to the boy that oases were always considered to be ----- territories, because the majority of the ----- were women and children. There were oases throughout the desert, but the tribesmen fought in the desert, leaving the oases as places of -----.

