

**STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086**  
**(For candidates admitted from the academic year 2007–08)**

**SUBJECT CODE: EN/FC/RG23**

**B. A. /B.Sc./B.Com./B.S.W. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2008**  
**SECOND SEMESTER**

**COURSE : FOUNDATION ENGLISH: GROUP D**

**PAPER : READING AND GRAMMAR**

**TIME : 2 HOURS**

**MAX. MARKS : 50**

**I Read the following story and answer the questions below:**

**5x2=10**

There was once a stone cutter who was dissatisfied with himself and with his position in life. One day he passed a wealthy merchant's house. Through the open gateway, he saw many fine possessions and important visitors. "How powerful that merchant must be!" thought the stone cutter. He became very envious and wished that he should be like the merchant.

To his great surprise, he suddenly became the merchant, enjoying more luxuries and power than he had ever imagined, but envied and detested by those less wealthy than himself. Soon a high official passed by, carried in a palanquin, accompanied by attendants and escorted by soldiers beating gongs. Everyone, no matter how wealthy, had to bow low before the procession. "How powerful that official is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be a high official!"

Then he became the high official, carried everywhere in his palanquin, feared and hated by the people all around. It was a hot summer day, so the official felt very uncomfortable sitting on the sticky velvet seat. He looked up at the sun. It shone proudly in the sky, unaffected by his presence. "How powerful the sun is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be the sun!"

Then he became the sun, shining fiercely down on everyone, scorching the fields, cursed by the farmers and labourers. But a huge black cloud moved between him and the earth, so that his light could no longer shine on everything below. "How powerful that storm cloud is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be a cloud!"

Then he became the cloud, flooding the fields and villages, shouted at by everyone. But soon he found that he was being pushed away by some great force, and realised that it was the wind. "How powerful it is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be the wind!"

Then he became the wind, blowing tiles off the roofs of houses, uprooting trees, feared and hated by all below him. But after a while, he ran up against something that would not move, no matter how forcefully he blew against it – a huge, towering rock. "How powerful that rock is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be a rock!"

Then he became the rock, more powerful than anything else on earth. But as he stood there, he heard the sound of a hammer pounding a chisel into the hard surface, and felt himself being changed. "What could be more powerful than I, the rock?" he thought. **He looked down and saw far below him the figure of a stone cutter.**

- What were the different characters taken by the stone cutter?
- Why did he want to become the official?
- Why did the farmers hate the sun?
- What did the wind do to frighten people?
- What did he learn when he became the rock?

**II Read the dialogue given below and answer the questions:**

**5x2=10**

- John : She's really pretty, isn't she? Her skin looks so baby smooth!
- Becky: Well, it's just that she puts lots of make-up on her face. Actually, natural beauty comes from within.
- John : Ah, I can smell jealousy in the air!
- Becky: She has nothing that deserves my jealousy. I don't have to put things on my face and I still look pretty. Don't you think so?
- John : Yeah, right! But what did you put on your face last night, those little greenish things?
- Becky: They're cucumbers. They're natural skin soothers, natural healers of the skin. Haven't you heard them say on TV that...er...they soften the skin, wipe out the roughness, counter irritation, and build strength and resilience?
- John : Yeah, yeah, yeah! They wipe out tight, tired feelings and remove lines and age signs. Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah! See I can even recite it.
- Becky: That's right! You've learned a lot, haven't you?

- Why does John think Becky is jealous?
- Why does Becky use cucumbers on her face?
- How did she learn the effects of cucumber?
- What is the tone with which John recites the words of the advertisement?
- "Natural beauty comes from within" – Do you agree or disagree? Give your reasons.

**III Read the advertisements given and answer the questions given below: (10 marks)**

- What are words used for matrimonial and market. (1)
- Under what heading will you announce change of names? (1)
- Who wants only software Engineer girls only and where does he work? (2)
- From which state do you get marbles? (1)
- Which place is described as Tamil Nadu's next Sriperumpudur and why? (2)
- How many CADD centres do you have in Chennai? Mention any two centres close to the college. (2)
- Mention two brand names of diesel engines given. (1)



**IV Fill in the blanks with suitable articles:****20 x ½ = 10**

“I do not know what (1) \_\_\_ contents are,” said Cho wondering why he didn’t get (2) \_\_\_ copy of the book “The Name is Rajinikanth”. (3) \_\_\_ larger than life true story of the actor forms (4) \_\_\_ the content of (5) \_\_\_ book. It compiles the filmography of (6) \_\_\_ Superstar. It reads like (7) \_\_\_ novel at times. The book deals in (8) \_\_\_ interesting way with (9) \_\_\_ transformation of (10) \_\_\_ ordinary looking, not-extraordinarily-talented actor, born into (11) \_\_\_ poor family into (12) \_\_\_ superhero with (13) \_\_\_ massive fan following. Can any one define Rajini? He’s in show business, but not (14) \_\_\_ showman. He talks politics every now and then. He talks spiritualism. But he is not (15) \_\_\_ guru or (16) \_\_\_ Acharya. (17) \_\_\_ book gives us (18) \_\_\_ glimpse of what went into the making of the Superstar. Soon it will hit (19) \_\_\_ stands and (20) \_\_\_ Tamil translation is underway.

**V Fill in the blanks with a suitable prepositions:****10 x ½ = 5**

- a. Ann came \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_ her bicycle \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ evening.
- b. She ran \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ the corridor and \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ the stairs to the second floor.
- c. He took the book \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_ the shelf and put it \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_ his bag.
- d. My friends are waiting \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_ me \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_ the mall.
- e. I like to watch TV \_\_\_\_\_ 9 \_\_\_\_\_ late \_\_\_\_\_ 10 \_\_\_\_\_ night.

**VI Fill in the blanks with suitable pronouns:****10 x ½ = 5**

- a. He should be ashamed of \_\_\_1\_\_\_.
- b. Mary was worried about the children, so she convinced \_\_\_2\_\_\_ husband not to accept the job abroad.
- c. I can’t find \_\_\_3\_\_\_ pencil. Can I use \_\_\_4\_\_\_, Mary?
- d. Each plan has \_\_\_5\_\_\_ merits.
- e. I do my work and they do \_\_\_6\_\_\_.
- f. Despite \_\_\_7\_\_\_ old age, he is very active.
- g. They are good in \_\_\_8\_\_\_ work.
- h. She was my school mate. I am meeting \_\_\_9\_\_\_ after many years.
- i. I cut \_\_\_10\_\_\_ when I was peeling the potatoes.







