

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086
(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2008 – 09)

SUBJECT CODE: EL/MC/PR14

B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2008
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 theme, structure and style: (1x15=15)

To fuel yet another war – this time against Iraq - by cynically manipulating people's grief, by packaging it for TV specials sponsored by corporations selling detergent or running shoes, is to cheapen and devalue grief, to drain it of meaning. What we are seeing now is a vulgar display of the business of grief, the commerce of grief, the pillaging of even the most private human feelings for political purpose. It is a terrible, violent thing for a state to do to its people.

OR

Today's apology, however inadequate, is aimed at righting past wrongs. It is also aimed at building a bridge between Indigenous and Non-indigenous Australians – a bridge based on a real respect rather than a thinly veiled contempt. Our challenge for the future is to now cross that bridge and, in so doing, to embrace a new partnership between Indigenous and Non-indigenous Australians - embracing, as part of that partnership, expanded link-up and other critical services to help the stolen generations to trace their families if at all possible and to provide dignity to their lives.

II. Answer any THREE of the following in about 350 words each. (3x15=45)

- a. Lincoln's 'Gettysburg Address', explains the "American Experiment" of a "nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." Discuss.
- b. Nelson Mandela's letter to Manorama Bhalla is relevant, especially as the "India-Africa partnership moves forward in the 21st century". Comment.
- c. Critically examine the arguments of Shashi Tharoor in his speech, "Violence and its Manifestations".
- d. Comment on the humour in George Mike's "Tea".
- e. 'New exhibitionism', is the term Marina Hyde employs to discuss the pitfalls and shortcomings of the internet era and blogging. Examine her essay, "The Private Collapses into the Public" in the light of this term.
- f. Bacon's ambition was not "merely to master all knowledge, but to reform it, especially the way by which new knowledge was to be acquired". Critically examine 'Of Ambition', against this statement.

III. Answer any TWO of the following in about 500 words each. (2x20=40)

- a. Charles Lamb was “a genial, lovable commentator on human nature”.
Substantiate the given statement with reference to his essay “Dream Children”.
- b. “Jane Austen was a continuing presence in Woolf’s letters, diaries, essays, and fiction”. Critically examine Woolf’s essay on Jane Austen against this statement.
- c. Discuss the features of rhetoric with reference to any one of the speeches prescribed for you.
- d. Readers long to understand the world around them, and a columnist lends insight to this process. Substantiate the above statement with reference to Ramachandra Guha’s column, ‘The Locality and the Nation’.
- e. Comment on the conversational quality of Addison’s style with special reference to his essay, “Of Ladies’ Head-dress”.
