

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086

(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2015-2016)

SUBJECT CODE: 15EL/FC/EC13

B.A./ B.Sc./B.V.A./B.Com./B.Com.(CS)/B.S.W./B.C.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION,
NOVEMBER 2015
FIRST SEMESTER

COURSE : FOUNDATION ENGLISH
PAPER : ENGLISH CORE - I
TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS: 100

SECTION A

I. Read the following passages and answer the questions that follow. (2x15=30)

A. When the doorbell rang, Julian Farndale looked up.

The first decision he always had to make was whether to engage a potential customer in conversation, or simply leave them to browse. There were several golden rules that you adopted after so many years in the trade.

If the customer looked as if he needed some assistance, Julian would rise from behind his desk and say either, 'Can I help you?' or, 'Would you prefer just to browse?' if they only wanted to browse, he would sit back down, and although he would keep a eye on them, he wouldn't speak again until they began a conversation.

Julian wasn't in any doubt that this customer was a browser, so he remained seated and said nothing. Browsers fall into three categories: those implying passing the time of day who stroll around for a few minutes before leaving without saying anything; dealers who know exactly what they are looking for but don't want you to know they are in the trade; and finally, genuine enthusiasts hoping to come across something a little special to add to their collections.

This particular customer unquestionably fell into the third category.

Julian studied him out of the corner of one eye, an art he had perfected over the years. He decided he was probably an American—the tailored blazer, neatly pressed chinos and striped preppy tie. The man may have been a browser with real knowledge and taste because he only stopped to consider the finest pieces: the Adam fireplace, the Chippendale rocking chair and the Delft plate.

1. What was the first decision Julian Farndale had to make whenever a customer walked in? (2)
2. What were the golden rules followed by Julian Farndale? (3)
3. What are the three categories of browsers? (3)
4. What observations did Julian Farndale make about the particular customer?(3)
5. Make sentences of your own using any **four** of the words given below bringing out their meaning in the passage: (4)

assistance
genuine

prefer
special

conversation
stroll

decision
doubt

B. The passengers also help one another about the best way to get to a destination, because not infrequently the conductor has no clear idea of the topography of Delhi, and they often give contradictory directions, each maintaining that his is the right one. So far as newspaper reading is concerned, the fellow-passengers never snatch away anybody's paper, but take the pages he is not reading, in the most polite manner, and distribute them among themselves. These are however scrupulously returned. Books are often tugged at. One day a fellow-passenger pulled hard at an edition of the Gita I was holding in my hand, and when I did not let it go, but objected, he said angrily, 'You have got a holy book in your hand and you are behaving like this! I don't want your book. And he did make a pariah of me.

I have the habit of leaving my seat and waiting at the door of the bus so as to be able to get down as soon as it comes to the stop, instead of keeping it waiting as most of us do. But when the others see me doing this, they cry out in their anxiety, 'Please have patience.' Some even catch hold of my coat-tails or grip the arm to prevent me from moving. They also help in more exceptional circumstances. One day I found that I had only one bad rupee with me, and the conductor would not take it. In such a situation it is the custom with us to appeal to the general will of the passengers. As I did not do that a fellow-passenger snatched the coin from my hand, looked at it and said, "It is bad but don't worry. I am going to exchange it for a good one." And he took out a one-rupee note, gave it to me, and put my bad rupee in his pocket. I was so amazed that I could not prevent him.

1. Why do the passengers help one another to get to their destination? (2)
 2. What techniques do fellow-passengers in a bus use to borrow reading materials? (3)
 3. Why does a fellow-passenger become angry with the narrator? (3)
 4. What exceptional circumstance is the narrator talking of? How was he helped? (3)
 5. Make sentences of your own using any **four** of the words given below bringing out their meaning in the passage: (4)
- | | | | |
|-------------|------------|----------|---------|
| destination | distribute | object | anxiety |
| exceptional | appeal | exchange | prevent |

II. Write a paragraph of 75-100 words each on any TWO of the following:

(2x10=20)

1. How does the poet hope to attain his moment of reconciliation in the poem "The Worship Scar?"
2. How did the astrologer make his predictions?
3. Why did Mr. Nuttel visit the Sappletons? What was the outcome of the visit?
4. According to Symzboraska, what are the details that are to be included in a résumé?

III. Fill in the blanks choosing words from the list given below: (10 marks)

outsider	safety	straddles	sceptical	counsellor
concern	gallops	bridge	friends	quarrelled
ride	parts			

The old wooden ___1___ has gone, and today an iron suspension bridge ___2___ the Bhagirathi as it rushes down the gorge below Gangotri. But villagers will tell you that you can still hear the hoofs of Wilson's horse as he ___3___ across the bridge he had built a hundred and fifty years ago. At the time people were ___4___ of its safety, and so, to prove its sturdiness, he rode across it again and again. ___5___ of the old bridge can still be seen on the far bank of the river. And the legend of Wilson and his pretty hill bride, Gulabi, is still well-known in this region.

I had joined some ___6___ in the old forest rest house near the river. There were the Rays, recently married, and the Dattas, married many years. The younger Rays ___7___ frequently; the older Dattas looked on with more amusement than ___8___. I was part of their group and yet something of an ___9___. As a single man, I was a person of no importance. And as a marriage ___10___, I wouldn't have been of any use to them.

SECTION B**IV. Fill in the blanks with appropriate articles: (10x1=10)**

Walking in ___1___ morning or evening is ___2___ pleasant and healthy exercise. If ___3___ weather is fine throughout ___4___ day, ___5___ all-day walking tour may be ___6___ pleasure. Most people prefer to walk early in ___7___ morning before ___8___ sun is up, when they hear ___9___ song of birds, and have ___10___ fragrance of blossoming flowers and fresh grass.

V. Fill in the blanks using appropriate prepositions: (10x1=10)

1. He is fond _____ painting.
2. They belong _____ a noble family.
3. Jaunpur is famous _____ its perfumes.
4. He lived in Mumbai _____ ten years.
5. An ideal citizen abides _____ the laws of his country
6. She has been working _____ morning
7. _____ being fined, he was sentenced to imprisonment.

8. These seats are reserved ___ the guests.
9. It is natural to wish _____ distinction.
10. The policeman looked _____ the list of suspects.

SECTION C

VI. Write a paragraph of about 100 words on any ONE of the following: (10 marks)

1. The world of gaming
2. Value of discipline
3. Teenagers and fashion

VII. Develop the following hints into a paragraph of about 100 words: (10 marks)

Young boy in a village --- plays --- friends – returns home --field -- one day --
a crack on the wall of water reservoir--- water flowing into the field -- the whole
night trying to stop the leak --- villagers search for him –the morning --- boy tired
--- saving crops --- his presence of mind.
