

**STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086**  
(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2009–10)

**SUBJECT CODE: EN/FC/EC33**

**B.A./ B.Sc./ B.S.W. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2010**  
**THIRD SEMESTER**

**COURSE : FOUNDATION CORE**  
**PAPER : ENGLISH CORE**  
**TIME : 2 HOURS**

**MAX. MARKS: 50**

**I. Write a short answer in about three paragraphs on any one of the following. (10 marks)**

1. Whom do you most identify with in *The Glass Menagerie*? Amanda or Laura or Tom or Jim? Explain why.
2. Describe Amanda's strengths and weaknesses.
3. Describe Tom.

**II. Write an essay in about four paragraphs on any one of the following. (10 marks)**

1. Mother Teresa
2. Mahatma Gandhi
3. Kashmir
4. Chennai
5. Your dreams
6. Your family

**III. Read the passage and answer the questions. (15 marks)**

From *The Glass Menagerie*

**Tom:** One little warning. He doesn't know about Laura. I didn't let on that we had dark ulterior motives. I just said, why don't you come and have dinner with us? He said okay and that was the whole conversation.

**Amanda:** I bet it was! You're eloquent as an oyster. However he'll know about Laura when he gets here. When he sees how lovely and sweet and pretty she is, he'll thank his lucky stars he was asked to dinner.

**Tom:** Mother, you mustn't expect too much of Laura.

**Amanda:** What do you mean?

**Tom:** Laura seems all those things to you and me because she's ours and we love her. We don't even notice she's crippled any more.

**Amanda:** Don't say crippled! You know that I never allow the word to be used?

**Tom:** But face facts, Mother. She is and —that's not all—

**Amanda:** What do you mean 'not all'?

**Tom:** Laura is very different from other girls.

**Amanda:** I think the difference is all to her advantage.

**Tom:** Not quite all—in the eyes of others—strangers—she's terribly shy and lives in a world of her own and those things make her seem a little peculiar to people outside the house.

**Amanda:** Don't say peculiar.

**Tom:** Face the facts. She is.

**Amanda:** In what way is she peculiar, may I ask?

**Tom:** (Gently) She lives in a world of her own-- world of--little glass ornaments, Mother.... (Gets up. Amanda remains holding brush, looking at him, troubled.) She plays old phonograph records and --that's about all-- (He glances at himself in the mirror and crosses to door)

**Amanda:** (Sharply) Where are you going?

**Tom:** I'm going to the movies. (Out screen door)

**Amanda:** Not to the movies, every night to the movies! (Follows quickly to the screen door.) I don't believe you always go to the movies! (He is gone. Amanda looks worriedly after him for a moment. Then vitality and optimism return and she turns from the door. Crossing to portieres.) Laura! Laura! (Laura answers from kitchenette.)

**Laura:** Yes Mother.

**Amanda:** Let those dishes go and come in front! (Laura appears with dish towel. Gaily.) Laura, come here and make a wish on the moon!

**Laura:** (Entering.) Moon—moon?

**Amanda:** Look over your left shoulder, Laura, and make a wish! (Laura looks faintly puzzled as if called out of sleep. Amanda seizes her shoulder and turns her at an angle by the door.) Now! Now, darling, wish!

**Laura:** What shall I wish for, Mother?

**Amanda:** (Her voice trembling and her eyes suddenly filling with tears.) Happiness! Good fortune!

(The violin rises and the stage dims out)

Questions:

1. What are the facts about Laura that Tom wants Amanda to face? (3 marks)
2. Describe Tom's feelings for Laura. (3 marks)
3. Describe Amanda's feelings for Laura. (3 marks)
4. Describe your own feelings for Laura. (3 marks)
5. Use the following phrases and words in sentences of your own. (3 marks)  
lucky stars; peculiar; make a wish

**IV. Attempt the questions and the language tasks that follow the passage.**

**(15 marks)**

From *The Glass Menagerie*

**Tom:** I didn't go to the moon, I went much further—for time is the longest distance between two places—

Not long after that I was fired for writing a poem on the lid of a shoe-box.

I left Saint Louis. I descended the steps of this fire-escape for a last time and followed, from then on, in my father's footsteps, attempting to find in motion what was lost in space—

I traveled around a great deal. The cities swept about me like dead leaves, leaves that were brightly coloured but torn away from the branches.

I would have stopped, but I was pursued by something.

It always came upon me unawares, taking me altogether by surprise. Perhaps it was a familiar bit of music. Perhaps it was only a piece of transparent glass—

Perhaps I am walking along a street at night, in some strange city, before I have found companions. I pass the lighted window of a shop where perfume is sold. The window is filled with pieces of coloured glass, tiny transparent bottles in delicate colours, like bits of a shattered rainbow.

Then all at once my sister touches my shoulder. I turn around and look into her eyes....

Oh, Laura, Laura, I tried to leave you behind me, but I am more faithful than I intended to be.

Questions:

1. Why is Tom trying to put a distance between him and his family? (2 marks)
2. Which line indicates that Tom could not forget Laura? (1 mark)
3. “It always came upon me unawares”. What does it refer to? (3 marks)
4. Write a sentence of your own using the phrase “to take by surprise”. (1 mark)
5. Why does the lighted window remind him of a rainbow? (2 marks)
6. Write one sentence in the *past tense* in which you will use the following words as part of your sentence construction: (6 marks)

Tom- travel- further- by- pursued- at night

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