

**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 2016**  
**FOURTH SEMESTER**

**COURSE : FOUNDATION CORE**

**PAPER : ENGLISH CORE - IV**

**TIME : 3 HOURS**

**MAX. MARKS: 100**

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

But one of them seized the boy and yanked him back out of the hole. Another, who was searching the boy's bags, found the piece of gold.

"There's gold here," he said.

The moon shone on the face of the Arab who had seized him, and in the man's eyes the boy saw death.

"He's probably got more gold hidden in the ground."

They made the boy continue digging, but he found nothing. As the sun rose, the men began to beat the boy. He was bruised and bleeding, his clothing was torn to shreds, and he felt that death was near.

"What good is money to you if you are going to die? It's not often that money can save someone's life," the alchemist had said. Finally the boy screamed at the men, "I'm digging for treasure!" And, although his mouth was bleeding and swollen, he told his attackers that he had twice dreamed of a treasure hidden near the Pyramids of Egypt.

The man who appeared to be the leader of the group spoke to one of the others: "Leave him. He doesn't have anything else. He must have stolen this gold."

The boy fell to the sand, nearly unconscious. The leader shook him and said, "We're leaving."

But before they left, he came back to the boy and said, "You're not going to die. You'll live, and you'll learn that a man shouldn't be so stupid. Two years ago, right here on this spot, I had a recurrent dream, too. I dreamed that I should travel to the fields of Spain and look for a ruined church where shepherds and their sheep slept. In my dream, there was a sycamore growing out of the ruins of the sacristy, and I was told that, if I dug at the roots of the sycamore, I would find a hidden treasure."

1. What did the Arabs find in the boy's bag? Why did they beat the boy? (4)
2. Why did the boy talk about the treasure to his attackers? (4)
3. What did the leader of the group tell the boy before leaving? (4)
4. Make sentences of your own using any three of the words given below bringing out their meaning in the passage: (3)

yank	recurrent	ruined
bruised	unconscious	hidden

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

As he sat there thinking, he sensed a movement above him. Looking up, he saw a pair of hawks flying high in the sky.

He watched the hawks as they drifted on the wind. Although their flight appeared to have no pattern, it made a certain kind of sense to the boy. It was just that he couldn't grasp what it meant. He followed the movement of the birds, trying to read something into it. Maybe these desert birds could explain to him the meaning of love without ownership.

He felt sleepy. In his heart, he wanted to remain awake, but he also wanted to sleep. "I am learning the Language of the world, and everything in the world is beginning to make sense to me...even the flight of the hawks," he said to himself. And, in that mood, he was grateful to be in love. When you are in love, things make even more sense, he thought.

Suddenly, one of the hawks made a flashing dive through the sky, attacking the other. As it did so, a sudden, fleeting image came to the boy: an army, with its swords at the ready, riding into the oasis. The vision vanished immediately, but it had shaken him. He had heard people speak of mirages, and had already seen some himself: they were desires that, because of their intensity, materialized over the sands of the desert. But he certainly didn't desire that an army invade the oasis.

He wanted to forget about the vision, and return to his meditation. He tried again to concentrate on the pink shades of the desert, and its stones. But there was something there in his heart that wouldn't allow him to do so.

"Always heed the omens," the old king had said. The boy recalled what he had seen in the vision, and sensed that it was actually going to occur.

He rose and made his way back toward the palm trees. Once again, he perceived the many languages in the things about him: this time, the desert was safe, and it was the oasis that had become dangerous.

1. Describe the flight of the hawks. (4 marks)
2. What was the image seen by the boy? How did it affect him? (4 marks)
3. How did the desert and the oasis seem to the boy now? (3 marks)
4. Frame sentences using any four of the words given below. The sentences should bring out the meaning in the context of the passage: (4 marks)

drifted	grateful	vanish	concentrate
forget	desire	movement	

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

1. What role does the alchemist play in Santiago's life?
2. Santiago meets the chief of the tribes at the oasis after his vision of the hawks. What was the outcome of the meeting?

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

1. Between the boy and the owner of the bar in Tangier
2. Between Fatima and her friend after the boy leaves the oasis
3. Between the alchemist and the Englishman at their first meeting

**IV. Write an essay in about five paragraphs (not less than 250 words) on one of the following. (20 marks)**

1. Campus politics
2. Women and 33% reservation
3. Being a student

**Va. Write a letter to the Consumer Forum complaining about the poor quality of packed flour at a particular shop you visit.**

**OR**

**Write a letter of complaint to the Electricity Board about the frequent power disruptions in your residential area. (1x10=10)**

**b. Write a letter in response to the following post advertised in a newspaper:**

Chemical Manufacturing Pvt. Ltd., Company requires
MANAGEMENT TRAINEES
Apply to ALL ZONE Management Solutions Pvt. Ltd Nungambakkam, Chennai 600 034

**OR**

**SMG College, Chromepet, Chennai-44, invites applications for the post of Assistant Professors in the Department of English. (1x10=10)**

**VI. Fill in the blanks choosing appropriate words from the list provided.  
Rewrite the passage after filling in the blanks with appropriate words: (10 marks)**

disaster, unknown, neighbours, obligation, owned,  
tremble, orchard, conversations, ruined, crop,  
adventures travels

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 \_\_\_\_\_ as a shepherd.

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

“I used to live near El Cairum,” he said. “I had my \_\_\_\_\_, 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 \_\_\_\_\_ in my life. I could die happily, and that made me feel good.

“One day, the earth began to \_\_\_\_\_, and the Nile overflowed its banks. It was something that I thought could happen only to others, never to me. My \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ would be destroyed.

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

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