

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086
(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2015-2016 and thereafter)
SUBJECT CODE: 15EL/FC/EC13

B.A./ B.C.A./ B.S.W./ B.Sc./ B.V.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2016
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)

1.

In the deepening twilight three figures were walking noiselessly across the lawn, a tired brown spaniel close at their heels. They all carried guns, and one had a white coat over his shoulders.

Framton grabbed his walking stick; the hall door and the gravel drive were dimly noted stages in his headlong retreat.

“Here we are, my dear,” said the bearer of the white mackintosh, coming through the window. “Who was that who bolted out as we came up?”

“A Mr. Nuttel,” said Mrs. Sappleton, “who dashed off without a word of apology when you arrived. One would think he had seen a ghost.”

“I expect it was the spaniel,” said the niece calmly. “He told me he had a horror of dogs. He was once hunted into a cemetery on the banks of the Ganges by a pack of dogs, and had to spend the night in a newly dug grave with creatures snarling and foaming above him. Enough to make anyone lose their nerve.”

- a. Why did Mr. Nuttel run away on seeing the three figures? (4)
 - b. Why is Mrs. Sappleton surprised by Mr. Nuttel’s running away? (4)
 - c. How does the niece explain Mr. Nuttel’s behaviour? (4)
 - d. Use any three of the following words in sentences of your own bringing out the meaning, as used in the passage, clearly. (3)
- expect noiselessly horror apology ghost grave*

2. “Stop,” said the other. “I don’t want all that. Shall I succeed in my present search or not? Answer this and go. Otherwise I will not let you go till you disgorge all your coins.” The astrologer muttered a few incantations and replied: “All right. I will speak. But will you give me a rupee if what I say is convincing? Otherwise I will not open my mouth, and you may do what you like.” After a good deal of haggling the other agreed. The astrologer said: “You were left for dead. Am I right?”

“Ah, tell me more.”

“A knife has passed through you once?” said the astrologer.

“Good fellow!” He bared his chest to show the scar. “What else?”

“And then you were pushed into the well nearby in the field. You were left for dead.”

“I should have been dead if some passer-by had not chanced to peep in to the well,” exclaimed the other, overwhelmed by enthusiasm. “When shall I get at him?” he asked, clenching his fist.

“In the next world,” answered the astrologer. “He died four months ago in a far-off town. You will never see any more of him.” The other man groaned on hearing it.

- a. What does the man want the astrologer to predict? (3)
 - b. How had the man received a scar on his chest? (3)
 - c. How did the man survive? (3)
 - d. Why does the astrologer say that the man would not be able to find the person who tried to kill him? (3)
 - e. Use any three of the following words in sentences of your own bringing out the meaning, as used in the passage, clearly. (3)
- succeed search muttered convincing peep fist*

II. Write a paragraph of 75-100 words each on any TWO of the following: (2x10=20)

1. What kind of details should one include in a resumé according to the poem “Writing a Resumé”? Why?
2. How do people behave in buses in India, according to Nirad Chaudhari?
3. Why does the poet feel guilty in the poem “The Worship Scar”?
4. Describe the relationship between Gulabi and Wilson.

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

| | | | | | |
|---------|-------|--------|----------|------|----------|
| own | heap | labour | business | rays | shadows |
| benefit | poles | lamps | place | fact | lighting |

The astrologer transacted his _____1_____ above the groundnut _____2_____ nearby. Half the enchantment of the place was due to the _____3_____ that it did not have the _____4_____ of municipal lighting. The _____5_____ was lit by shop lights. One or two hissing gaslights, some had naked flares stuck on _____6_____, some were lit up by old bicycle _____7_____, and one or two, like the astrologer’s, managed without lights of their _____8_____. It was a bewildering criss-cross of light _____9_____ and moving _____10_____.

SECTION B

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

Stories about people who have extraordinary abilities have always attracted our attention. One of them is _____1_____ story of Vera Petrova, who is able to feel things with different parts of her skin, and through solid walls. One day she came into her father's office and put her hands on the door of _____2_____ iron safe. Suddenly

she asked her father why he kept so many old newspapers locked away there. Vera's curious talent was brought to the notice of _____ 3 _____ scientific research institute and she was given _____ 4 _____ series of tests by _____ 5 _____ special team. During these tests she managed to read _____ 6 _____ newspaper through _____ 7 _____ opaque screen and then she described the designs and colours on _____ 8 _____ item of clothing hidden under a carpet. During all these tests Vera was blindfolded; and, when _____ 9 _____ cloth covering her eyes was removed she could not feel things with her skin. It was also found that she lost this ability _____ 10 _____ moment her hands were wet.

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

When the air is clear, the sunset will appear yellow, because the light _____ 1 _____ the sun has passed a long distance _____ 2 _____ air. If the air is filled _____ 3 _____ small particles of pollution, the sun _____ 4 _____ the sky will appear more red. Sunsets _____ 5 _____ the sea may also be orange, due to salt particles _____ 6 _____ the air. The sky _____ 7 _____ the sun is also then reddened, like the light coming directly _____ 8 _____ the sun. In its journey _____ 9 _____ the Earth all light is scattered relatively well through small angles, but blue light is more likely to be scattered _____ 10 _____ greater distances, leaving the yellow, red and orange colours to be reflected.

SECTION C

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

- a. My First Semester in College
- b. Celebrating Friendship Day
- c. Preparing for Examinations

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

Emperor Akbar – travelling with courtiers – long journey – hot day – tired – wanted someone to shorten the road – courtiers did not know what to do — Birbal – undertook to solve the problem – got onto a horse – rode next to the Emperor's palanquin – told him an interesting story – journey over – Emperor surprised - journey felt short – Birbal happy – succeeded in shortening the road.
