

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086
(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2017–18 and thereafter)
SUBJECTCODE :17EL/FC/EC24
B.Voc. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2018
SECOND SEMESTER

COURSE : FOUNDATION CORE

PAPER : ENGLISH FOR COMMUNICATION - II

TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS: 100

SECTION A

I. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow:

Passage 1

(20 marks)

Soil-less gardening is a practical and ideal solution for urban kitchen gardens; there is a wide range of alternative materials that can be used to raise plants

Though soil has always been the most natural medium for growing plants, it comes with a host of problems. As garden soil is a living, breathing material, it often contains harmful bacteria and is the source of many soil-borne diseases. Battling these pests is the constant bane of every gardener. Inert soil-less mediums have the advantage here: as they are sterile, they cannot support the growth of bacterial life. It is also an ideal solution for areas with hard, compacted soil. These mediums range from inorganic matter: sand, gravel, perlite, vermiculite to organic material like wood chips, coconut husk and rice hulls.

Soil-less kitchen is ideal for small contained spaces, and terrace gardens with troughs or containers and vertical growth structures. But it can also be done in larger spaces. Many commercial ventures have turned to these mediums for their obvious advantages. It is easy to control the nutrients in a soil-less sterile medium, especially as the roots have a direct access to the nutrients. When plants are given exactly what is needed for growth, (pH adjusted, balanced nutrients, sunlight and water) they will grow and perform exactly as they are genetically programmed to do, and produce superior food or flowers.

Sand is commonly used for raising seedlings, but must first be washed to remove impurities. It is best to use coarse sand as it creates air pockets that will help in aeration for the roots. Gravel has larger particles, and like sand, is good for drainage. Additionally, it can be washed and re-used repeatedly.

Perlite is made from minerals that are heated till they expand and become light and porous. Vermiculite is a silicate mineral that also expands and has similar properties to perlite. They are excellent aerators and can be used in various combinations with other mediums. It can also be washed and stored for later use.

Coconut husk or cocopeat is the most favourable growing medium. It is pH neutral, holds water well and also allows good aeration. Coco chips are larger and can be used in combination with other mediums.

Parboiled rice hulls are the waste product of rice; as the hulls are cleaned and dried in the process of extracting rice, they are sterile and ideal for growing plants. Like coconut fibre, it is an entirely natural product, and preferred by gardeners who use only organic materials.

Water absorbent gel, peat moss, wood chips and garden compost are some of the other mediums. It is advisable to use these in combination with other materials. Most gardeners have their own recipes with varying proportions for the different stages of planting. Vermiculite, perlite, cocopeat and sand are a good mix, as they retain moisture and help aerate the roots.

A fine mix of sterile garden compost and sand is preferred by many gardeners for raising seeds. Other combinations used by gardeners are: sieved manure with peat moss and coco husk with crushed seashells. Plants need three main nutrients for growth — nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, and also, a range of micro-nutrients. Soil-less mediums are inert and must be enhanced with organic fertilisers which supply necessary nutrients. Organic matter containing these nutrients will keep your soil-less medium healthy. These are: compost, clean sieved manure, ground limestone, bone meal, leaf mould, neem cake.

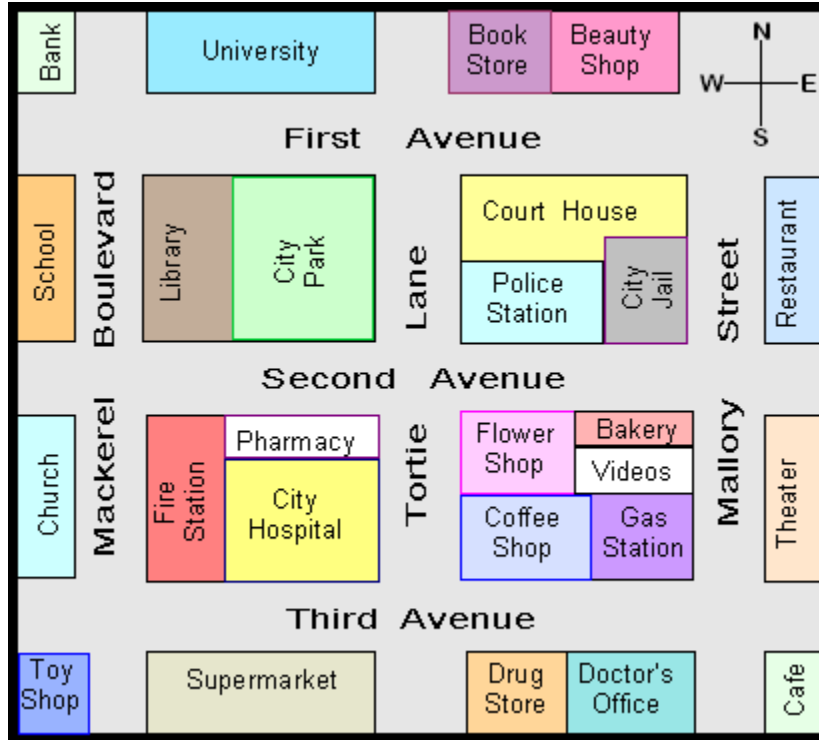
Fill your containers, grow bags or gardening space with the soil-less medium of your choice; you can sow seeds or plant seedlings exactly as you would in soil. Water lightly after sowing. At first, it is best to observe how the new medium retains water; if you find it dries out soon, make a note to adjust the combination using more organic matter in future. If the mix does not have adequate drainage, add more sand or vermiculite. As always, these observations must be made in a garden diary for future reference. Periodic application of an organic fertilising solution will ensure healthy productive plants. One of the best aspects of soil-less mediums is that the use of pesticides is almost completely eliminated.

1. What is the central idea of the passage? (1 mark)
2. State any four benefits of soil-less gardening. (4 marks)
3. Which is the most favoured medium of gardening? Why? (3 marks)
4. What are the various combinations used by gardeners ? (3 marks)
5. State whether the following statements are true or false. (1 x 4 = 4 marks)
 - i) Phosphorous and potassium are not nutrients.
 - ii) Coarse sand is a good aerator.
 - iii) Rice hulls are organic in nature.
- iv) pH balance in the given context means a balanced combination of sunlight, nutrients and water.
6. Frame sentences of your own using any five of the words given in the box below, in the same context as used in the passage. (1 x 5 = 5 marks)

proportion	trough	medium	nutrient	ideal	eliminate	periodic
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II.

Observe the map given below and answer the questions that follow:(20 marks)



1. Mention any three places that one would go to spend his/her leisure time? (3 marks)
2. What are the places that one can buy medicines from? (3 marks)
3. Mention any 3 places that six-year old Miller prefers to visit. Why? (1 x 3 = 3 marks)
4. Draft suitable directions for the following: (2 x 3 = 6 marks)
 - i) Direct the Doctor to the bank.
 - ii) Direct the parish priest to the restaurant after Sunday morning mass.
 - iii) Rita from Mallery Street wants to buy flowers on her way to the University.
5. State whether the following statements are true or false. (1 x 5 = 5 marks)
 - i) The Café is located in the south-western corner.
 - ii) The hospital is adjacent to the fire station.
 - iii) The bank is located in the north-eastern corner.
 - iv) The restaurant is situated on Mallery street.
 - v) The coffee shop is closer to the video library than to the book store.

III.

1. Write a letter to the head of your department seeking permission to attend an inter-collegiate competition. **(10 marks)**
2. Draft an email to your schoolmates inviting them to attend the reunion that you are organising after the semester exams. **(10 marks)**
3. Draft your curriculum vitae to be uploaded on an online job portal. **(10 marks)**
4. Write a letter of complaint to the Commissioner of Police (Traffic) about the unruly parking of vehicles in your residential area. **(10 marks)**

IV. Fill in the blanks using the verb given in brackets in the appropriate tense (simple past, past continuous or future). (1 x 10 = 10 marks)

In 2004, my friend Jack _____ (begin) his career in an NGO where he _____ (work) as an environmentalist. He _____ (live) with his parents and siblings when I last _____ (meet) him at his farm-house in Coimbatore. As a young boy, he _____ (be) interested in farming. He _____ (drive) his father’s tractor at the age of 13. I once _____ (see) him ploughing the fields, while his sister _____ (feed) the ducks in the pond nearby. When I contacted him last night, he _____ (tell) me that next week, he _____ (travel) to Singapore to deliver a lecture on global warming to the students of National University.

V. Fill in the blanks with the adverbial form of the words from the list given in the box. (1 x 5 = 5 marks)

meticulous beautiful seldom certain graceful kind active
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Jill is _____ the most suitable candidate for the job. She _____ goes on leave. She works _____ and is often appreciated by her team-leader. She sings _____ and dances _____ as well.

VI. Complete the following sentences using zero or first conditional clauses. (1 x 5 = 5 marks)

1. If you heat jaggery, _____
2. _____, you will score high marks.
3. If you switch on the heater, _____.
4. _____ unless you are called.
5. If you sing, _____.