

Roll. No:

DATE: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

# St. Claret College

Autonomous, Bengaluru

UG END SEMESTER EXAMINATION- MAY 2025

II SEMESTER BA

GEA 224: GENERAL ENGLISH

TIME: 3 hours.

MAX. MARKS: 80

This paper contains THREE printed pages and FOUR parts

**Instructions:**

1. Verify and ensure that the question paper is completely printed.
2. Any discrepancies or questions about the exam paper must be reported to the COE within 1 hour after the examination.
3. Students must check the course title and course code before answering the questions.

**PART-A**

(Prose and Poetry)

Answer any FIVE questions. Each answer carries TWO mark.

[5x2=10]

1. In the short story, *Ranga's Marriage* what examples did Ranga give to explain the importance of marrying late?
2. What does the discussion about the cost of provisions symbolize in the poem, *The Female of the Species*?
3. What is the meaning of "anchoring earth" and "earth cave" as mentioned in the poem, *On Killing a tree*?
4. What does Russell suggest is a common mistake people make in their pursuit of happiness in the essay, *The Road to Happiness*?
5. In the short story, *Thank You, Ma'am* what was the parting advice of Mrs. Jones to Roger?
6. Why was Surekha's marriage initially rejected by her father as mentioned in *270 Crore Heartbeat* by Amrita Pritam?
7. Why do some characters in the barber shop doubt the accusation against Will Mayes in *Dry September* by William Faulkner?

**PART-B**

Answer any FOUR questions in about 250-300 words. Each answer carries FIVE marks.

[4x5=20]

8. Discuss the central theme of Gauri Deshpande's poem, *The Female of the Species* and analyze how she portrays the experiences of women in a patriarchal society.
9. According to Russell in the essay, *Road to Happiness*, why is social success an obstacle to happiness in a competitive society? How does he propose individuals can achieve true happiness?
10. Describe briefly why did Mrs. Jones took Roger to her home and not hand him over to the police as mentioned in the short story, *Thank You, Ma'am*.

11. In *Dry September*, many characters comment on the weather. How does Faulkner characterize the weather? Does it affect people's actions in the story?
12. Analyse the theme of Helplessness in *The Old Man at the Bridge*.
13. What were Ranga's ideas about marriage? Do you find any change in them during the course of the story, *Ranga's Marriage*?

#### PART-C

Answer any TWO questions in about 500 words. Each answer carries TEN marks. [2x10=20]

14. Astrologers' perceptions are based more on hearsay and conjecture than what they learn from the study of the stars. Comment with reference to the story, *Ranga's Marriage*.
15. Analyze the theme of societal expectations and personal liberation in the story, *270 Crore Heartbeat*.
16. Discuss the theme of racial injustice and mob violence in *Dry September*. How does Faulkner portray the dangers of prejudice and hysteria in the Southern society of the time?

#### PART-D

(Language Component)

##### 17. Read the passage and answer the questions

[2x3=6]

a. Education is one of the most powerful tools for social change, and college students play a significant role in shaping the future of society. However, not everyone has equal access to quality education. Many underprivileged children struggle due to financial constraints, lack of resources, or social barriers. College students can contribute to bridging this gap by volunteering for educational programs, conducting free tutoring sessions, or organizing book donation drives.

Apart from academic support, mentoring young minds and inspiring them to pursue their dreams can make a lasting difference. Encouraging education among girls is particularly important, as it helps break cycles of poverty and empowers entire communities. Gender inequality in education remains a major challenge, and raising awareness about its importance is crucial.

Moreover, digital literacy is becoming essential in today's world. Many students from low-income backgrounds lack access to technology, putting them at a disadvantage. College students can assist by teaching basic computer skills, setting up community learning centers, or advocating for better educational policies.

When young individuals actively participate in social causes like education for all, they become agents of change. Their efforts not only transform lives but also contribute to building a more inclusive and progressive society. It is not just about charity; it is about ensuring that everyone gets an equal chance to succeed.

- a. Describe the central theme of the passage in 4-5 Sentences.
- b. Comment on why education is considered as a powerful tool for a social change.

**18. Change the following sentences into Reported speech**

**[6x1=6]**

- a. The teacher said, "The earth goes around the sun".
- b. I said to him, "Where are you going?"
- c. My friend said to Deepak, "Have you ever been to Agra?"
- d. My mother said, "Will you come home on time?" And I said, "Yes."
- e. She said, "May God save the country!"
- f. My mother said to me, "Don't waste your time watching TV."

**19. Construct a dialogue**

**[2x3=6]**

- a. Between two girls on pursuing higher education after graduation.
- b. Between a teacher and a student regarding the academic performance.

**20. Your department is organizing an Intra-department fest. As the Secretary of the department draft a Welcome a Speech.**

**[1x6=6]**

**21. Do as directed:**

**[6x1=6]**

- a. Use an appropriate prefix to the given word provided in the bracket.  
I am sorry, I didn't mean to hurt you. I must have \_\_\_\_\_ you. (Understood)
- b. Choose the best substitute for the word in Italics from the given sentence.  
A Law has been passed *effectively* limiting the sale of Cigarettes.  
a) absolutely b) substantially c) necessarily d) wishfully
- c. Choose the appropriate homophones.  
They had a wonderful holiday (in spite of/despite of) the bad weather.
- d. Choose the appropriate word from the given words in the bracket.  
The passenger train was \_\_\_\_\_ when the goods train hit it. (Stationery/Stationary)
- e. Use the Suffix to the given word provided in the bracket in its appropriate form.  
She was not satisfied with the service. She found it completely \_\_\_\_\_ (satisfactory).
- f. Identify the synonym of "astonish" from the following:  
a) Surprise b) Predict c) Ignore d) Expect

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