

Roll No:

Date: ___/___/___

St. Claret College

6
Autonomous, Bengaluru

UG END SEMESTER EXAMINATION-NOV 2025

BCom/BCom TTM/BBA I SEMESTER

GEC 124: GENERAL ENGLISH

TIME: 3 hours.

MAX. MARKS: 80

This paper contains THREE printed pages and TWO parts

Instructions:

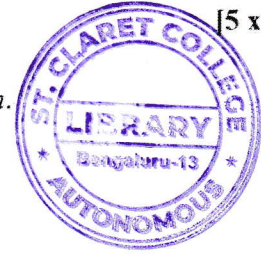
1. Verify and ensure that the question paper is completely printed.
2. Any discrepancies or questions about the exam paper must be reported to the COE within 1 hour after the examination.
3. Students must check the course title and course code before answering the questions.

PART-A

Answer any FIVE questions. Each answer carries TWO marks.

[5 x 2 = 10]

1. Who is the verger in Somerset Maugham's story?
2. List any two children described in *An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum*.
3. Why did the narrator want to meet the manager in *My Financial Career*?
4. How does Dr. B. R. Ambedkar differentiate great men from eminent men?
5. Why does Lencho write a letter to God in G.L. Fuentes's story?
6. Who is Narayan Sharma in *I Am a Ghost*?
7. Why was the shepherd from *Fidelity* worried about the dog he saw on the rocky hill?



Answer any FOUR questions. Each answer carries FIVE marks.

[4 x 5 = 20]

8. In what ways does the saree remind the speaker of her mother in *My Mother's Saree*?
9. How is the importance of literacy discussed in *The Verger*?
10. Discuss the character of Sudhanya from *I am a Ghost*.
11. How is the narrator's visit to the bank an intimidating experience in *My Financial Career*?
12. Discuss the ironic ending of *A Letter to God*.
13. How are the images of windows and frames on the wall used in *An Elementary Classroom in A Slum*?

Answer any TWO questions. Each answer carries TEN marks.

[2x10=20]

14. *The Verger* is a story celebrating the entrepreneurial spirit. Elucidate.
15. How does *Fidelity* celebrate dogs as the most virtuous creatures in nature?
16. Discuss the threefold metric for *Who can be called a great man* with your own examples.

PART-B

(Language Component)

17. Read the passage and answer ALL the questions given below.

[5x1=5]

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw is one of India's foremost biotech entrepreneurs, whose career blends scientific vision with social purpose. She was born in March 1953 in Bangalore to a family connected with India's brewing industry. Early on, she showed aptitude in science, and after finishing her undergraduate studies in zoology at Bangalore University in 1973, she went abroad to Australia. There she trained in fermentation science and, in 1975, earned a qualification as a master brewer, at a time when women in such fields were rare.

When she returned to India, Kiran faced resistance: breweries were reluctant to hire a woman, and many prospects closed to her on account of gender bias. Undeterred, she turned to entrepreneurship. In 1978 she launched Biocon India in a small rented garage in Bengaluru, with modest resources. The initial business focused on industrial enzymes, supplying to textile, food, and brewing industries. Over time, under her leadership, Biocon transformed into a full-fledged biopharmaceutical company, expanding into research and development of drugs for diabetes, cancer, and other diseases.

Yet the journey was not easy: she struggled to raise funding, and sometimes vendors or investors doubted her because she was a woman. Some even insisted she hire a male manager to assure credibility. Nevertheless, Biocon began exporting enzymes abroad within its first few years of operation. Over succeeding decades, her company launched subsidiaries to handle contract research and clinical trials, and gained recognition for its innovation.

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw has also committed herself to social causes. She established the Biocon Foundation to support health, education, and infrastructure, particularly in underserved areas of Karnataka. She coined the term "compassionate capitalism," asserting that business can and should benefit society sustainably. Her achievements have earned her major honors including the Padma Shri (1989) and Padma Bhushan (2005) from the Government of India.

Through the obstacles of social prejudice, financial constraints, and skepticism, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw persisted in her belief that biotechnology could be a force for good. Her life exemplifies the fusion of scientific ambition with humanistic purpose.

Questions

- What educational qualification did Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw obtain in Australia, and in which year?
- What difficulties did she face when she returned to India?
- In which year did she start Biocon India, and where was it located initially?
- What changes did Biocon undergo over time under her leadership?
- True or False:* Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw believes that business should only maximize profit and not concern itself with social welfare.

18. Choose the appropriate option from the bracket.

[5x1=5]

- The medicine was _____ (non/in/un) toxic and safe for children.
- The word "see" and "sea" sound alike but differ in meaning. They are _____ (homographs/homophones/homonyms).

- c) The teacher praised her for her _____ (punctual/punctuality/punctually) in completing the assignment on time.
- d) She decided to _____ her anger before replying to the harsh comment. (bare / bear)
- e) We should always pay _____ (attendance/attention/attentive) when someone is giving instructions.

19. Rewrite the following sentences in passive voice. [5x1=5]

- a) The startup founder presented a new business model at the tech conference.
- b) The company is opening a second office in Whitefield next month.
- c) Engineers have designed an app to reduce traffic congestion in the city.
- d) The chief executive announced new policies for remote work.
- e) Venture capitalists are evaluating proposals from early-stage entrepreneurs.

20. Change the following sentences into reported speech. [5x1=5]

- a) The teacher said, "Don't forget to label your diagrams."
- b) He said, "I didn't agree with the decision made in the meeting."
- c) The doctor said, "Are you taking your medicines regularly?"
- d) She said, "Please send me the photographs after the event."
- e) The student said, "I have completed all the assignments on time."

21. Do as directed. [5x1=5]

- a) She was painting the wall when it started to rain. (Identify the clauses)
- b) The girl with the blue umbrella smiled at the stranger. (Underline the noun phrases)
- c) He sings beautifully. (This sentence has a verb phrase. True/False)
- d) We will reach the station before sunset. (Underline the verb phrase)
- e) The teacher praised the students. (Add a subordinate clause and complete the sentence.)

22. Write an essay on ONE of the following topics. [1x5=5]

- a) The Screen Addiction Problem
- b) Internet as a Portal of Infinite Possibilities
