

Register Number:

Date:

**ST. JOSEPH’S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), BANGALORE - 27**

**III B.A CPE – COMMUNICATIVE ENGLISH**

**END-SEMESTER EXAM: DECEMBER 2022**

**COMMUNICATIVE ENGLISH: CE 5122**

**Time- 2½ hrs Max Marks- 70**

**Instructions:**

1. **This paper is for students of V semester Communicative English.**
2. **The paper has FOUR SECTIONS and THREE printed pages.**
3. **You will lose marks for exceeding the word limit.**

**A. Read the following poem by Billy Collins and answer the questions below.**

**AIMLESS LOVE**

This morning as I walked along the lakeshore,  
I fell in love with a wren  
and later in the day with a mouse  
the cat had dropped under the dining room table.  
   
In the shadows of an autumn evening,  
I fell for a seamstress  
still at her machine in the tailor’s window,  
and later for a bowl of broth,  
steam rising like smoke from a naval battle.  
   
This is the best kind of love, I thought,  
without recompense, without gifts,  
or unkind words, without suspicion,  
or silence on the telephone.  
   
The love of the chestnut,  
the jazz cap and one hand on the wheel.  
   
No lust, no slam of the door –  
the love of the miniature orange tree,  
the clean white shirt, the hot evening shower,  
the highway that cuts across Florida.  
   
No waiting, no huffiness, or rancor –  
just a twinge every now and then  
   
for the wren who had built her nest  
on a low branch overhanging the water  
and for the dead mouse,  
still dressed in its light brown suit.  
   
But my heart is always propped up  
in a field on its tripod,  
ready for the next arrow.  
   
After I carried the mouse by the tail  
to a pile of leaves in the woods,  
I found myself standing at the bathroom sink  
gazing down affectionately at the soap,  
   
so patient and soluble,  
so at home in its pale green soap dish.  
I could feel myself falling again  
as I felt its turning in my wet hands  
and caught the scent of lavender and stone.

**I.A. Answer ANY THREE of the following questions in FIVE-SIX lines each. (3x5=15)**

**1.** Urban Dictionary defines ‘Soup Boy’ as somebody who is rejected by a woman he is trying to woo. Based on your reading of the poem, does Billy Collins come off as a soup boy or as someone simply tired of love? Give reasons.

**2.** What sentiment does the poem end with? Is the speaker firm in his attention towards the little things he is in love with or in danger of falling in love with a person again?

**3.** Do you agree with Billy Collins’ irritation with silence on the telephone as being more intolerable than other silences? Explain what you make of this silence and the intolerance to it.

**4.** For a poem that cautiously draws its reader’s attention to small, deliberate things in nature, why is it titled ‘Aimless Love’? – Elaborate.

**B. Read the following excerpt from a short story by Dorothy Parker and answer the questions below.**

"Look. Suppose a young man says he'll call a girl up, and then something happens, and he doesn't. That isn't so terrible, is it? Why, it's going on all over the world, right this minute. Oh, what do I care what's going on all over the world? Why can't that telephone ring? Why can't it, why can't it? Couldn't you ring? Ah, please, couldn't you? You damned, ugly, shiny thing. It would hurt you to ring, wouldn't it? Oh, that would hurt you. Damn you, I'll pull your filthy roots out of the wall, I'll smash your smug black face in little bits. Damn you to hell. "I'll count five hundred by fives. I'll do it so slowly and so fairly. If he hasn't telephoned then, I'll call him. I will. Oh, please, dear God, dear kind God, my blessed Father in Heaven, let him call before then. Please, God. Please. Five, ten, fifteen, twenty, twenty-five, thirty, thirty-five.”

*Writer Dorothy Parker was preoccupied with the silence* ***of*** *the telephone, not* ***on****. She often wrote stories about women waiting for the telephone to ring. For her, the telephone was the object of male elusiveness. A kind of non-availability that people today refer to as ghosting.*

**I.B.**  **Answer ANY TWO of the following questions in 150-200 words each. (2x15=30)**

**5.** Examine the telephone as a cultural motif of romance, elusiveness, availability and non-availability in both Collins’ and Parker’s accounts. Of the two, which are you more familiar with? Which silence are you more capable of tolerating?

**6.** How is the telephone presented in stories of romance? Write about a film or a song where the telephone is featured in an engaging way. Has the replacement of the telephone with a mobile phone made it possible to reach/avoid much more effectively? Explain.

**7**. In your experience, are women more capable of tolerating silence/rejection than men? Comment.

**I.C. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 100-150 words. (15 marks)**

**8**. Explain how polysemy makes word play possible. What are the lexical relations that we rely on to process the joke “Is life worth living? It depends upon the liver”?

**9.** Explain how inferences are part and parcel of our understanding of everyday conversations?

**I.D. Answer the following questions in FIVE sentences each. (2x5=10)**

**10**. Have you come across an untranslatable joke in your mother tongue? Explain how that joke works in English?

**11**. Explain the lexical relations at work in the following pairs:

a. small/big

b. pawn/pieces

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