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| Register No: |

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

**END-SEMESTER EXAMINATION**

**III SEMESTER BSc/BA/BSW/BCom/BBA/BCA**

**OCTOBER 2021**

**GE 318 – General English (Regular)**

**Time: 2.5 hours Max. Marks: 70**

**This paper contains FOUR printed pages and TWO sections**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. This paper is for students who have taken up Regular Course for General English

2. Please write **REGULAR ENGLISH** on the front page of your answer booklet

3. Both sections are compulsory

4. You will lose marks for exceeding word limits

5. You are allowed to use a dictionary

**I. Read the following excerpt from a piece by Tishani Doshi published in *Granta.***

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has pledged to make safety for women an integral part of his government’s agenda. Several schemes have been initiated to improve the lives of rural women: microfinancing, providing free gas cylinders and sanitary pads. The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party’s (BJP) landmark campaign, ‘Beti Bachao Beti Padhao’ (Save the girl child, educate the girl child), aims to ensure the survival and protection of girls, however, statistics still point to India being the most dangerous country in the world for a woman to live in.

In Uttar Pradesh, India’s most populous state, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched several programmes to secure the safety of women, cows, rivers – all ‘mother’ figures that feed into the rhetoric of Mother India. Adityanath believes strongly in the *matrishakti* of women, their divine feminine power. He wrote an entire essay about how their *urja* (energy) was so strong it needed to be protected, otherwise it would go to waste. He says that the shastras outline the greatness of women, but also stress the importance of protecting women so that they may continue to rear great men. Earlier this year, in neighbouring Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan proposed that every woman stepping out of her house register herself with the local police station so that she can be tracked for safety; a request many women found patronising, suggesting that it might be more useful for men with a history of criminal behaviour to register themselves instead. Although he did not belong to the BJP, one former member of the legislative assembly, Kodela Siva Prasad, gave a speech about women’s empowerment suggesting that women wouldn’t get raped if they were parked at home like cars, saying, ‘When it is parked in the garage at home, accidents can be avoided, right?’

This ‘protection’ rationale has long been a way for men to assert control over women’s bodies and their sexuality. In our narratives, women’s bodies are symbols, receptacles of honour for family, caste, religion and nation. With all this protection you’d imagine women’s bodies would be sacrosanct and inviolable. In fact, their bodies are war zones.

**I.A. Answer ANY THREE out of the following four questions in about 150 words each: (3x10= 30 marks)**

1. Look up the word ‘rear’ as a verb in your dictionary. What did you find? Is ‘rear’ respectful to women? What do you think? Explain your answer.

2. ‘When it is parked in the garage at home, accidents can be avoided, right?’ ”

Are you in favour of Mr. Kodela Siva Prasad’s above suggestion that women, like cars, should be kept at home to avoid harassment and rape? Why/why not?

If you could respond to that statement in the form of a Whatsapp status or Instagram story, what would that story or status entail?

3. What do you think the writer means when she says “In fact, their bodies are war zones”? In what context does she use it? Explain.

4. Look up the word ‘patronising’. Explain how it works in this passage. Is there a word that can replace ‘patronising’ that conveys how you feel about the request of the Chief Minister? If so, what would that word be? Justify your choice of word.

**I.B. Answer the question below in 150 words: (1x10=10 marks)**

5. Do you see any merit in the politicians’ arguments? Discuss.

**II. Read the following poem by Niina Pollari published in *Granta* in October, 2021*.***

**Urine Season**

Summer in New York is urine season. Everything has an odor. The hot rain comes and hoses down the sidewalk, but the smell remains, floating there like warmth on live skin. People toss bottles out of their cars, and the bottles explode over the sidewalk. Or they stay closed and roll to a stop, then cook for days next to an architecturally famous building.

Last time it was urine season, I was expecting. That’s how you say it. You don’t say what you’re expecting. I didn’t know what I expected, but now I know. I held my pee on every corner of this town, waiting to meet my daughter.

This year I’ve been watching a livestream of a falcon nest. On a ledge above the sidewalk are three falcon hatchlings. They wait and watch in their rocky nest, knowing that their parents will bring them smaller birds to eat. There were four eggs in the nest, but the fourth didn’t hatch. The three remaining hatchlings grow larger and more dangerous each day. They rip apart tanagers and starlings as they learn the ways of predation. They shit over the edge of the building. The excrement drips down the side.

Today the falcons left.

This is a poem about expectation.

At the hospital, I had a catheter. It leaked on the bed, on the sheets, against my legs. Someone came in and asked where my baby was, not seeing the decal on the door. I have never felt as helpless.

It’s urine season again. It will be again and again. We will feel this way again. Some will say this is not a poem for them. But I say it’s a poem for anyone who ever expected anything.

**II.A. Answer ANY THREE out of the following four questions in about 5-8 sentences each: (3x5=15 marks)**

6. “The hot rain comes…floating there like warmth on live skin”, what do you think the poet is referring to here?

7. The poet has been watching a falcon’s nest from afar. What is the most interesting sentence in the description of the nest for you? Why?

8. Does any instance from the poem disturb or unsettle you in any way? If so, what is the instance and why did it unsettle you?

9. Do you think the poem is about expectations as the poet says? What is your opinion?

**II.B. Answer ANY ONE out of the following two questions in about 200 words: (1x15=15 marks)**

10. The above poem is called a ‘prose poem’. Prose poems are pieces of writing in prose having obvious poetic qualities, including intensity, compactness, prominent rhythms, and imagery.

Do you find the prose poem poetic? Elaborate your answer.

11. X’s five-year-old cousin, on coming from Australia to India, was asked which country she liked better. The little girl gave the hoped-for answer, “India.” “Why?” the adult asked. “Because in India I can pee outside!” she grinned.

What does the child’s perspective illustrate about the difference between India and Australia? Do you think it is accurate? Explain your answer.