Roll No:
Date: __/__/____

St. Claret College

Autonomous, Bengaluru

ST. CLARET COLLEGE LIBRARY Bengaluru-13 AUTONOMOUS

UG END SEMESTER EXAMINATION- MAY 2026
II SEMESTER BA
GEA 224: GENERAL ENGLISH

6

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* who wanted Ranga to get married?
2. What does the tree consume to grow in the poem, *On Killing a Tree*?
3. How did Epicurus pursue money in the short story, *The Road to Happiness*?
4. Why did the old man have to leave San Carlos as narrated in the story, *The Old Man at the Bridge*?
5. In the short story, *Thank You, Ma'am* what reason did Roger give for trying to steal Mrs. Jones' purse?
6. Why did Surekha buy an artificial mangal sutra for her marriage as mentioned in *270 Crore Heartbeat* by Amrita Pritam?
7. What does the discussion about the cost of provisions symbolize in the poem, *The Female of the Species?*

PART-B

Answer any FOUR questions in about 250-300 words. Each answer carries FIVE marks. **[4x5=20]**

8. Who was Ratna, and how did Shyama plan to get Ranga interested in her in *Ranga's Marriage*?
9. How does the poem, *The Female of Species* depict the importance of emotional connections in our lives?
10. Write a short note on the theme of the essay, *The Road to Happiness*.
11. How does the relationship between Roger and Mrs. Jones evolve throughout the story, *Thank You, Ma'am*?
12. Describe the role of rumour in the events of the short story, *Dry September*.
13. Write a critical appreciation of the poem, *On Killing a Tree.*

PART-C

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

14. Justify the title of the poem, *On Killing a Tree* by Gieve Patel.
15. How does memory play a role in the old man's reflections on his life in the story, *The Old Man at the Bridge*?

16. Explain the symbolism of the *270 Crore Heartbeats* in the story. How does this metaphor reflect Surekha's emotional journey?

SECTION-D

(Language Component)

17. **Read the passage and answer the questions:** **[2x3=6]**

In a small town, there was a library that had been abandoned for years. The people of the town barely noticed its existence. One day, a young girl named Maya stumbled upon it while exploring. She pushed open the creaky doors and was amazed by the dusty shelves filled with books. Determined to bring life back to the library, Maya convinced her friends to help clean and organize it.

The town's people, curious about the commotion, soon joined in. Over time, the library became a thriving center of learning and storytelling. Children gathered for story sessions, adults found joy in reading once more, and the town rediscovered its love for books. All because one girl saw the potential in what others had forgotten.

a. What is the central theme of the passage, and how does Maya's determination contribute to it?

b. How does the transformation of the library reflect the importance of community involvement and shared goals?

18. **Change the following sentences into Reported speech** **[6x1=6]**

a. She said, "I am going to the market."
b. He said, "I have completed my homework."
c. They said, "We will visit the museum tomorrow."
d. The teacher said, "Please submit your assignments on time."
e. John asked, "Can you help me with this project?"
f. He said, "If I had studied harder, I would have passed the exam."

19. **Do as Directed:** **[2x3=6]**

a. Construct a dialogue between two friends, Raj and Aman, who are discussing their plans for the upcoming weekend.
b. Construct a dialogue between priya and her teacher approaching for an extension on her project deadline due to personal circumstances.

20. Draft a vote of thanks speech for Blood Donation Camp organized in your college. **[1x6 =6]**

21. Do as directed: **[1x6=6]**

a. Replace the underlined word with its **synonym**:
Your ***unwavering*** support and hard work made the event successful.

a) Flexible b) Steadfast c) Hesitant d) Temporary

b. Fill in the blank with the correct **antonym** formed using the appropriate **prefix**:
The donors showed an _____ attitude by participating in the Blood Donation Camp.
(The antonym of 'selfish')

c. Choose the correct **homophone** to complete the sentence:

Virat will ……(break/brake) the record if he keeps working hard.

d. Choose the best substitute for the word in Italics from the given sentence.

The government has implemented policies to *significantly* reduce pollution.

a) Slightly b) Considerably c) Minimally d) Indirectly

e. Complete the sentence by adding a **suffix** to the word in the bracket:

She was _____ when she heard the good news. *(joy)*

f. Identify the synonym of "astonish" from the following:

a) Surprise b) Predict c) Ignore d) Expect

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