



ST. FRANCIS DE SALES COLLEGE

A FRANSALIAN INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION **AUTONOMOUS**

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END SEMESTER EXAMINATION – MAY 2025

LANGUAGES - II SEMESTER BA

24UBA22G: GENERAL ENGLISH II

Time: 3 Hours

Max. Marks: 80

Instruction: Answer all the questions.

SECTION A

(Prose and Poetry)

I. Answer ANY FIVE in one or two sentences:

(5x2=10)

1. What does the narrator in the story, *Ranga's Marriage* say about Hosahalli?
2. Who does the poet, Gowri Deshpande turn to instead of men?
3. What was the self-confession made by the poet, in the poem, *Telephone Conversation*?
4. According to the old man, which animal could take care of itself?
5. What mistake do many people make despite having good health and wealth, according to Bertrand Russel's essay *The Road to Happiness*?
6. What is the central theme of the poem *On Killing a Tree*?
7. Why does Mrs. Jones say that she wishes Roger were her own son, according to the story, *Thank You Ma'am*?
 - a) so she could punish him properly
 - b) so she could teach him right from wrong
 - c) so she could buy him all the shoes he wanted
 - d) so she could make sure he gets a good education
8. What was the name of the barber in the story, *Dry September* and why didn't he believe the accusations?

II. Answer ANY FOUR in about a page:

(4x5=20)

1. What is the significance of the title '*Ranga's Marriage*'.
2. Comment on the message the poet conveys about nature through his poem, *On Killing A Tree*.
3. Discuss how the story, *Thank You Ma'am*, explores the themes of understanding and empathy.



4. How can the themes of *Dry September* be related to contemporary issues of racial prejudice and justice?
5. Do you think men can understand the emotional experiences of women, as suggested in the poem *The Female of the Species*?
6. In reference to Bertrand Russel's essay, *The Road to Happiness*, reflect on your own life about activities which give you intrinsic happiness.

III. Answer ANY TWO in about two to three pages:

(2x10=20)

1. Comment on the influence of English language on Indian culture as reflected in the story, *Ranga's Marriage*.
2. Discuss how the poem, *On Killing a Tree*, reflects broader environmental concerns, and the message it might hold for contemporary society.
3. Evaluate the effectiveness of humour and irony in the poem, *Telephone Conversation*.
4. Wars have an adverse effect on our lives. How does the story *The Old Man and The Bridge*, bring out this truth?

SECTION B

(Language Component)

IV. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow:

(5x1=5)

In Greek mythology, Hyacinthus was a Spartan prince of remarkable beauty and a lover of the sun god Apollo. He was also admired by Zephyrus, the god of the West wind, Boreas, the god of the North wind and a mortal man named Thamyris. Hyacinthus chose Apollo over the others. He visited all of Apollo's sacred lands with the god in a chariot drawn by swans. So fiercely was Apollo in love with Hyacinthus that he abandoned his sanctuary in Delphi to enjoy Hyacinthus' company by the river Eurotas. He taught Hyacinthus the use of the bow and the lyre, the art of prophecy, and exercises in the gymnasium.

One day, Apollo was teaching him the game of quoits. They decided to have a friendly competition by taking turns to throw the discus. Apollo threw first, with a strength so great that the discus split the clouds in the sky. Eager to retrieve the discus, Hyacinthus ran behind it to catch it. But as it hit the ground, the discus bounced back, hitting Hyacinthus' head and wounding him fatally. An alternative version of the myth holds Zephyrus responsible for the death of Hyacinthus. Jealous that Hyacinthus preferred the radiant Apollo, Zephyrus blew Apollo's quoit boisterously off course to kill Hyacinthus. Apollo's face turned pale as he held his dying lover in his arms.



He used all sorts of herbs and even tried giving ambrosia to heal Hyacinth's wound, but in vain, for he could not cure the wound inflicted by the Fates. When Hyacinthus perished, Apollo wept, saying he would have become a mortal and join his lover in his death if he were able to. That being unachievable, Apollo promised that he would always remind himself of Hyacinthus through his songs and the music of his lyre. From Hyacinth's spilled blood, he created a flower, the hyacinth, and on its petals inscribed the words of lamentation, "AI AI" meaning "alas".

Questions:

1. Who was Hyacinthus?
2. What is the meaning of the word mortal?
 - a) Which cannot die b) Which can die c) Alive d) Dead
3. Hyacinthus visited all of Apollo's sacred lands with the god in a chariot drawn by Geese. True or False?
3. Name any two things that Apollo taught Hyacinthus.
4. What did Apollo promise in the end?

V. Change the following into reported speech:

(5x1=5)

1. Mohit said, "Switzerland is a very beautiful country".
2. The teacher said to the students, "Make sure you hand over your papers before 12 noon".
3. My grandmother said, "I have some work to do".
4. The local MP said, "We plan to make this city a safer place for everyone".
5. "Where have you been?" the mother asked her daughter.

VI. Write dialogues for ANY ONE of the following situations:

(1x5=5)

- a. Write a dialogue between you and your friend Aliya regarding the necessity of career counseling for college students.

(or)

- b. Write a dialogue between you and your mother as you seek permission to go on a five – day trip organized by your college to Manali.

(Hints: dates finalized for the trip, number of faculties going on the trip, mode of transportation, cost of the trip, beneficial for your academics)



VII. Speech Writing:

(2x5=10)

- a) Prepare a Vote of thanks on the occasion of Teachers' Day celebration, thanking your Chief Guest, Dr Nanda Devi who is a former Principal of your college.
- b) On the occasion of World Environmental Day, prepare a welcome speech to introduce your Chief Guest, Ms. Maneka Gandhi, a renowned environmentalist of our country.

VIII. Do as directed:

(5x1=5)

1. The team that we supported won the (*champion*) _____. (add a suitable suffix)
2. You should _____ (*consider*) your decision of moving to Delhi. (add a suitable prefix)
3. Do you _____ (*keep/have/save*) a diary? (Fill in suitable collocation)
4. Vacate (identify the appropriate antonym)
a) abandon b) charter c) sever d) occupy
5. Advocate (identify the appropriate synonym)
a) predict b) pronounce c) support d) determine

