

**LOYOLA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), CHENNAI – 600 034**

**U.G. DEGREE EXAMINATION – GENERAL ENGLISH**

FIRST SEMESTER – APRIL 2010

**EL 1061 / EL 1065 - ENGLISH FOR ESSENTIAL WRITING**

Date & Time: 03/05/2010 / 9:00 - 12:00 Dept. No.

Max. : 100 Marks

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I Read the following passage and answer the questions given below: 5 x 2 = 10

This parable is told of a farmer who owned an old mule. The mule fell into the farmer's well. The farmer heard the mule praying or whatever mules do when they fall into wells. After carefully assessing the situation, the farmer sympathized with the mule, but decided that neither the mule nor the well was worth the trouble of saving. Instead, he called his neighbors together, told them what had happened, and enlisted them to help haul dirt to bury the old mule in the well and put him out of his misery.

Initially the old mule was hysterical! But as the farmer and his neighbors continued shoveling and the dirt hit his back, a thought struck him. It suddenly dawned on him that every time a shovel load of dirt landed on his back, HE WOULD SHAKE IT OFF AND STEP UP!

This he did, blow after blow. "Shake it off and step up...shake it off and step up...shake it off and step up!" He repeated to encourage himself. No matter how painful the blows, or how distressing the situation seemed, the old mule fought panic and just kept right on shaking it off and stepping up.

It wasn't long before the old mule, battered and exhausted, stepped triumphantly over the wall of that well! What seemed like it would bury him actually helped him . . . all because of the manner in which he handled his adversity.

1. What happened to the mule?
2. What did the farmer decide to do?
3. How did the mule re-engineer the situation?
4. What is the moral of the story?
5. Frame sentences with a) shake b) exhausted .

II Read the following and answer the questions given below:

5 x 2 = 10

SALEM: With the mysterious death of 25-year-old Senthilkumar, a research student in physics, in the hostel room of Hyderabad Central University, (Andhra Pradesh), the dreams of a poor Dalit family have been buried.

Senthilkumar's death, said to be a suicide, has, however, sparked an intense row, prompting many Tamil Nadu-based Dalit groups and social activists, to ask the Andhra Pradesh Government for a detailed inquiry into his death and also a bout of allegations that caste-based discrimination against Dalit research scholars and students is widely prevailing in the hallowed precincts of this prestigious institution of higher education.

They alleged that since Senthilkumar was a Dalit, he was harassed even in classrooms. The minimum pass mark for course work examinations would be raised to 55 to 60 for Dalit students so that they should fail and abandon their studies in distress, said S. Thennarasu, a research student, studying in the same university.

Mr. Thennarasu told The Hindu over phone from Hyderabad that discrimination was said to be "very high" in science branches.

These students had to bear bias and prejudices. Getting guides was very tough. No one would come forward to accept them as their wards, he said.

Senthilkumar was the eldest son and a first generation graduate from the poor pig-rearers' family of Palanichamy and Deivayanai of Jalakandapuram, a weavers' town, in Salem district. "Our entire family has toiled and funded his studies," said his father Palanichamy.

His burning passion for education since childhood had forced his younger brother and sister also to work just to fund his studies. He completed M.Sc physics in Madurai American College and obtained M.Phil from Puducherry University. Later, he wrote the entrance examination to join the Hyderabad University as a research scholar.

1. Who are Senthilkumar's parents? What was their source of livelihood?
2. Why did he commit suicide?
3. How are the dalit students discriminated in the university?
4. Give two suggestions to stop such discrimination?
5. Write about any other discrimination in our society.

III Answer the following in about 150 words:

1 x 10 = 10

1. Compare the above passage with the lesson 'Pudur's problem' and give suggestions to solve such human rights violations.

IV Rewrite as directed: (15)

1. Replace the underlined expression with five similar expressions.  
Francis, a student wants a book. (5)
2. Write sentences with the following words: (3)  
Eg: Where is your house?  
How b) Why c) When
3. Fill in the blanks with articles: (5)  
\_\_\_\_\_ wanderer carried \_\_\_\_\_ rotten pumpkin on his head. He had \_\_\_\_\_ boulder in his left hand. Around his neck \_\_\_\_\_ old millstone dangled on \_\_\_\_\_ frayed rope.
4. Re-write in the indirect speech: (2)
  - a) The professor asked, “What is the matter with you son?”
  - b) “I don’t know professor”, I mumbled miserably.

V Answer any one in about 250 words: 1x15=15

1. What do you think are the duties and roles of students in our society?
2. Explain how you converted a failure into success in your life.

VI The sentences given below are in a jumbled manner. Arrange the following sentences in the right order: (10)

1. I can’t was my characteristic way of reacting to any challenge.
2. The day started out just like any other.
3. With shaking knees, I stood up, shifting nervously from one feet to another.
4. At 9 a.m. I had a class in Economics, with Professor. Ben.
5. I always chose the corner seat hoping the professors would not notice me.
6. I was always a hard worker, studied diligently and had revised my lessons carefully.
7. I walked quietly into the class as usual and found a corner seat in the back row.
8. But I was terrified of speaking in public.
9. I was extremely shy and I had little self-confidence.
10. To my deep distress, the professor called on me to explain a point in the day’s lesson.

VII Answer any one of the following in about 200 words: 1 x 15 = 15

1. Narrate your experience of taking a risk in your life.
2. When and why do you pray? Write a short prayer for peace in the world.

VIII Study the picture given below and relate it to any of the lessons you have studied in about TEN sentences. (15 marks)



**For Visually challenged students only:**

Write a short essay on violence against women in India.

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