



THE AMERICAN COLLEGE, MADURAI

(An Autonomous Institution Affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University)
Re-accredited (2nd Cycle) by NAAC with Grade "A", CGPA – 3.46 on a 4-point scale

Backlog Arrear Examination, March 2021

ENG/ENS 1202/1362

Reading & Writing Skills

Time: 2hours

Marks: 60

I. Answer any FOUR of the following in about 200 words (4×15=60 marks)

1. Examine the various steps involved in comprehending a text.
2. Read the paragraph and answer the following questions (5+10=15marks)

Marie Curie was one of the most accomplished scientists in history. Together with her husband, Pierre, she discovered radium, an element widely used for treating cancer, and studied uranium and other radioactive substances. Pierre and Marie's amicable collaboration later helped to unlock the secrets of the atom.

Marie was born in 1867 in Warsaw, Poland, where her father was a professor of physics. At an early age, she displayed a brilliant mind and a blithe personality. Her great exuberance for learning prompted her to continue with her studies after high school. She became disgruntled, however, when she learned that the university in Warsaw was closed to women. Determined to receive a higher education, she defiantly left Poland and in 1891 entered the Sorbonne, a French university, where she earned her master's degree and doctorate in physics.

Marie was fortunate to have studied at the Sorbonne with some of the greatest scientists of her day, one of whom was Pierre Curie. Marie and Pierre were married in 1895 and spent many productive years working together in the physics laboratory. A short time after they discovered radium, Pierre was killed by a horse-drawn wagon in 1906. Marie was stunned by this horrible misfortune and endured heart-breaking anguish. Despondently she recalled their close relationship and the joy that they had shared in scientific research. The fact that she had two young daughters to raise by herself greatly increased her distress.

Curie's feeling of desolation finally began to fade when she was asked to succeed her husband as a physics professor at the Sorbonne. She was the first woman to be given a professorship at the world-famous university. In 1911 she received the Nobel Prize in chemistry for isolating radium. Although Marie Curie eventually suffered a fatal illness from her long exposure to radium, she never became disillusioned about her work. Regardless of the consequences, she had dedicated herself to science and to revealing the mysteries of the physical world.

A. The Curies' _____ collaboration helped to unlock the secrets of the atom.

1. friendly
2. competitive
3. courteous
4. industrious

B. What was her father's profession?

1. Chauffeur
2. Professor
3. Advocate
4. Apothecary

C. What was Mary and Pierre's discovery?

1. Radium
2. Sodium

3. Ammonium
4. None of the above

D. Marie _____ by leaving Poland and traveling to France to enter the Sorbonne.

1. challenged authority
2. showed intelligence
3. behaved
4. was distressed

E. When did she receive the Nobel Prize?

1. 1910
2. 1912
3. 1911
4. 1917

F. Skim the above paragraph and derive at inferences (10marks)

3. Elaborate on the skills of an efficient reader.
4. Write a letter to the HOD seeking permission to attend a Ph.D. viva in Coimbatore Arts and Science college.
5. Write a five paragraph essay on your inspiration.
6. Explain the various micro skills of writing.
