CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

# CBSE 2026-27

## English Language and Literature

Subject Code: 184 | Class X

## Marking Scheme – Sample Question Paper – Set 1

**Time Allowed: 3 Hours** **Maximum Marks: 80**

### General Instructions

1. This marking scheme is for Sample Question Paper Set 1; question numbers correspond exactly to that paper. It carries only suggested value points for the answers, not the questions.
2. The value points are in the nature of guidelines only and do not constitute the complete answer. The students can have their own expression and if the expression is correct, then due marks should be awarded accordingly.
3. If a student has attempted an extra question, the answer of the question deserving more marks should be retained and the other answer scored out with a note 'Extra Question'.
4. If more than one option is mentioned in the answer of multiple choice questions, then no marks to be awarded.
5. Evaluation is to be done as per instructions provided in the marking scheme.

### Exam Pattern

| Section | Type of Questions | No. of Qs | Marks each | Total Marks |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | Q1: Discursive passage (8 sub-questions) | 1 (8) | 1,1,1,2,1,1,1,2 | 10 |
| A | Q2: Case-based factual passage with visual input (9 sub-questions) | 1 (9) | 1,1,1,1,2,1,1,1,1 | 10 |
| B | Q3: Grammar (any 10 of 12 items) | 1 (12) | 1 | 10 |
| B | Q4–Q5: Writing (letter and analytical paragraph, internal choice) | 2 | 5 | 10 |
| C | Q6–Q7: Reference to context (prose/drama and poetry extracts, internal choice) | 2 | 5 | 10 |
| C | Q8: First Flight SA (any 4 of 5) | 1 (5) | 3 | 12 |
| C | Q9: Footprints Without Feet SA (any 2 of 3) | 1 (3) | 3 | 6 |
| C | Q10–Q11: LA (internal choice in each) | 2 | 6 | 12 |
| | **Total** | **11** | | **80** |

### Unit-wise Weightage of Marks

| Unit | Unit Name | Chapter | Marks |
|---|---|---|---|
| A | Reading Skills | Discursive passage (400–450 words); Case-based factual passage with visual input (200–250 words) | 20 |
| B | Grammar | Determiners; Tenses; Modals; Subject–verb concord; Reported speech (commands and requests, statements, questions) | 10 |
| B | Creative Writing Skills | Formal letter (100–120 words); Analytical paragraph (100–120 words) | 10 |
| C | First Flight | Prose, Drama and Poetry extracts; SA and LA questions | 28 |

| Unit | Unit Name | Chapter | Marks |
|---|---|---|---|
| C | Footprints Without Feet | Extract, SA and LA questions | 12 |
| | **Total** | | **80** |

## SECTION – A

*Reading Skills (20 marks)*

**Q1.** **[10]**

**(i)** cinnamaldehyde [1]
**(ii)** The stems of cinnamon trees are cut and the inner bark is extracted; the woody parts are removed. On drying, the bark curls into rolls called cinnamon sticks, which can be ground into cinnamon powder for use as a spice. [2]
**(iii)** Any one: Ceylon is sweeter and lighter in flavour while Cassia is robust, rich and somewhat bitter; Ceylon ('true cinnamon') comes from Sri Lanka while Cassia originates from southern China; Cassia is cheaper than Ceylon. [1]
**(iv)** in Egypt it was sought for embalming and religious practices, in medieval Europe for religious rites, and later it was the most profitable spice in the Dutch East India Company trade [1]
**(v)** The tone is appreciative and reverent. The writer calls cinnamon 'prized' and links it to thousands of years of medicinal use, showing admiration and respect for the spice's enduring value in traditional medicine. [2]
**(vi)** (c) only 3 [1]
**(vii)** (d) Cinnamon's anti-inflammatory properties are being researched for its potential benefits in Alzheimer's disease, irritable bowel syndrome and colon cancer. [1]
**(viii)** (c) Recognizes that cinnamon has many useful properties, including health benefits. [1]

**Q2.** **[10]**

**(i)** evolving beauty standards and social media influence [1]
**(ii)** (b) The industry is growing and evolving by the day. [1]
**(iii)** 'projected' [1]
**(iv)** Teenagers and young adults seek trendy and innovative solutions; their decisions are shaped by increasing awareness of personal grooming, skin-care routines, and the easy access offered by e-commerce and social media trends. [1]
**(v)** (a) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, and the Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion. [1]
**(vi)** E-commerce has expanded access to cosmetics especially in Tier II and Tier III cities, and online sales now contribute around 25% of total cosmetics sales in India — boosting revenue considerably. [1]
**(vii)** 35% [1]
**(viii)** From Rs 1,34,000 crore to Rs 2,40,000 crore — a rise of about 79% (nearly four-fifths higher). [2]
**(ix)** of increasing demand for beard care, skin care and fragrances customised for men, fuelled by social media influencers and changing attitudes that dismantle old stereotypes about male cosmetics consumption [1]

## SECTION – B

*Writing Skills with Grammar (20 marks)*

### GRAMMAR (10 marks)

**Q3.** **[10]**

**(I)** (b) was reviewed [1]
**(II)** (a) he had been overloaded with assignments [1]
**(III)** Tariq asked Sunil if/whether he had enjoyed travelling by sea. [1]
**(IV)** Yamini asked her friend Shifa whether/if she would like to come for her birthday party the following day. [1]
**(V)** (a) should [1]
**(VI)** if she could teach him to swim [1]
**(VII)** (a) was registered [1]
**(VIII)** explains [1]
**(IX)** that she would have the presentation ready for her very soon that day [1]
**(X)** Rhea asked her colleague if he had finalised the magazine content to be submitted the following/next day. [1]
**(XI)** (c) have not eaten [1]
**(XII)** (c) waste [1]

### WRITING (10 marks)

**Q4.** **[5]**

**Format:** sender's address, date, receiver's designation/address, subject, salutation, complimentary close [1]
**Content:** issue (accidents and petty crimes due to poor street lighting); dark stretches encourage snatchings and stumbles; urgent need to install street lights at vulnerable points; regular maintenance and inspection; benefit – safety of residents, especially women, children and the elderly, at night [2]
**Organisation:** effective style, orderly sequence, paragraphed structure, formal tone [1]
**Accuracy:** spelling, punctuation, grammar [1]

**OR**

**Format:** sender's address, date, receiver's designation/address, subject, salutation, complimentary close [1]
**Content:** problem (poorly lit streets – safety threat; late-shift workers and women feel vulnerable); request – installation of streetlights in identified dark stretches, repair of faulty fittings, priority to lanes near bus stops and markets; outcome – safer neighbourhood [2]
**Organisation:** effective style, orderly sequence, paragraphed structure, formal tone [1]
**Accuracy:** spelling, punctuation, grammar [1]

## Q5. [5]

**Content:** support – responsibility, empathy, discipline, confidence, fair mediation suit a captain [1]; balanced note – over-commitment needs time management; conclusion – she has the potential and deserves support [1]
**Organisation:** given opening and closing lines used, single paragraph, trait-by-trait analysis, formal tone [2]
**Accuracy:** spelling, punctuation, grammar [1]

**OR**

**Content:** trend – steep fall from 5177 (1951) to a projected 1140 (2050), below the 1700 stress line [1]; causes – population growth, over-extraction of groundwater, urbanisation and concretisation, polluted and drying rivers, wasteful irrigation and industrial use, climate change [1]
**Organisation:** single paragraph, data-led opening, cause analysis, forward-looking conclusion, formal tone [2]
**Accuracy:** spelling, punctuation, grammar [1]

# SECTION – C

*Literature Textbook (40 marks)*

## Q6. [5]

**A.**
**(i)** scream [1]
**(ii)** (b) had taken a first step of confidence [1]
**(iii)** confidence / assurance [1]
**(iv)** The family surrounds him with encouragement and example. Their calls, their flying around him, and their display of flight show him what he can do, and their presence gives him the security to forget his fear and fly. [2]

**OR**

**B.**
**(i)** (b) surprised and teasing [1]
**(ii)** (a) his hesitation and nervousness [1]
**(iii)** nervous / uneasy [1]
**(iv)** Lomov is nervous and rehearsing his proposal, so his speech is broken by pauses and asides. His hesitation makes Natalya's curiosity and teasing grow, and the scene turns into a comic clash of mood. [2]

## Q7. [5]

**A.**
**(i)** silent (soft and noiseless) [1]
**(ii)** (b) held back and suppressed [1]
**(iii)** cage (accept 'the few steps of his cage') [1]
**(iv)** 'Vivid stripes' show the tiger's natural beauty and vitality, while 'quiet rage' shows that its wild energy is pent up inside the cage. The contrast reveals a wild spirit that cannot express itself freely in captivity, creating an inner tension. [2]

**OR**

**B.**
**(i)** His own experience of desire – 'From what I've tasted of desire' [1]
**(ii)** The poet predicts the world could end either in fire (uncontrolled desire/passion) or in ice (cold hatred). He himself

supports the fire theory, though he grants that ice too is powerful enough to destroy. [2]
**(iii)** (b) metaphors [1]
**(iv)** The mood is contemplative and sombre – a calm, reflective consideration of humanity's capacity for self-destruction. [1]

## Q8. [12]

**(I)** The baker supplies bread for festivals, weddings and everyday meals, so he is woven into family and community life. [1]
Bread is a shared symbol of hospitality and celebration that brings people together. [1]
The baker is a friend, companion and guide to children, which shows his social importance beyond trade. [1]
**(II)** Frost uses the simplest of natural images – a crow, a hemlock tree and fine snow dust – to convey a deep truth. [1]
The ordinary, even unloved elements of nature lift the poet's despondent mood, proving nature's quiet power to heal. [1]
The short, simple form mirrors the poem's message: profound renewal can come from the simplest moments. [1]
**(III)** Coorg is situated midway between Mysore and the coastal town of Mangalore in Karnataka — the smallest district of Karnataka, the heart of India's coffee country. Characteristics (any two): the people are possibly of Greek or Arabic descent — fiercely independent and brave; stories of their valour are part of the folk songs and tales; they traditionally marry within their community; their courage is honoured in the Indian Army with high gallantry awards. [1]+ [2]
**(IV)** Fire symbolises burning desire, greed and lust – hot, consuming emotions; ice symbolises cold hatred, indifference and rigidity. [1]
By making two opposing natural elements stand for two destructive emotions, Frost compresses a profound warning into nine simple lines. [1]
The symbols show that human nature, not any external force, can destroy the world – either through fiery passion or icy hate. [1]
**(V)** The postmaster is deeply moved by Lencho's faith, which prompts a compassionate response instead of dismissal or mockery. [1]
He creatively devises a plan to keep Lencho's faith alive, showing that he thinks beyond routine duties. [1]
He respects Lencho's belief even though it seems naive, showing a high regard for individual conviction. [1]

## Q9. [6]

**(I)** The voice — young, pretty, dressed in red, with Sherry rubbing against her — shatters Horace's two weeks of careful planning in a second. [1]
She takes command of the situation: she calmly threatens to call the police, lets him hope he might talk his way out, and plays on his fear of prison. [1]
Instead of escaping with the jewels, Horace ends up opening the safe for her with his gloves off — handing her the evidence that later convicts him. [1]
**(II)** Initially, Hari manipulates Anil through calculated charm and deception. His final smile is genuine and spontaneous, requiring no effort. [1]
The contrast demonstrates authentic change — Hari moves from viewing relationships as opportunities for exploitation to valuing genuine human connection. [1]
The effortless smile suggests his change has been internalised, not merely behavioural compliance. [1]
**(III)** She treated Tricki like a spoiled child — endless extras between meals (malt, cod-liver oil, Horlicks, cream cakes and chocolates), no exercise, coats for every weather, and a whole staff to fetch his beds and bowls. [1]
The treatment made him hugely fat, listless and rheumy-eyed, "like a bloated sausage with a leg at each corner". [1]
Eventually he fell genuinely ill — refused food, had bouts of vomiting, and lay panting on a rug. [1]

## Q10. [6]

Valli plans her bus ride carefully and wins her mother's permission through persistence, showing self-confidence and resolve. [1]
Her courage shows when she stands up on the seat to see the view, and when she faces the unfamiliar passengers and the conductor's attitude. [1]
Her spirit of adventure is seen in her delight at the new bus and her wish to see everything. [1]
Content 3 (above), Organisation/Expression [1.5], Accuracy/Language [1.5]

**OR**

Rajvir is driven by curiosity about tea, reading about its origin and legends before arriving in Assam. [1]
Valli's curiosity leads her to take the bus, a wonder she has never experienced, and she observes everything with delight. [1]
Both journeys show that curiosity transforms ordinary travel into discovery and self-development. [1]
Content 3 (above), Organisation/Expression [1.5], Accuracy/Language [1.5]

**Q11.** **[6]**

The balcony symbolises the power of narrative to create reality. It exists only in language — in Ausable's detailed description and Max's belief — yet it becomes more "real" than the room itself because characters act upon it. **[1]**
Ausable constructs the balcony's existence through plausible details: explaining the building's history, describing access routes, mentioning previous intrusions. **[1]**
The non-existent balcony reveals the story's focus on truth versus perception — Max accepts the balcony's existence because Ausable's account aligns with what Max expects to find in a Paris hotel. **[2]**
Ultimately, the balcony represents the triumph of storytelling over material facts. Ausable understands that controlling the narrative gives absolute power: the fictional balcony becomes more consequential than any physical barrier — or any pistol. (Content 3, Expression 2, Accuracy 1) **[2]**

**OR**

The role of the Surgery is pivotal, both as a place of physical recovery and as a catalyst for Tricki's transformation. It offers a contrast to the overindulgent environment at Mrs Pumphrey's home. **[1]**
While her pampering and excessive feeding led to Tricki's ill health, the Surgery provides a balanced, structured environment — a strict diet, exercise, and social interaction with other dogs — which brings about his rapid recovery. **[2]**
The Surgery symbolises not just medical intervention but a shift towards responsible pet care: a pet's well-being requires more than affection and indulgence. **[1]**
Through Tricki's recovery, the writer critiques overindulgence and highlights the importance of holistic, responsible care for pets, both physical and emotional. **[1]**
Thus the "triumph" belongs not to surgery at all, but to sensible routine — which is Herriot's quiet irony. (Content 3, Expression 2, Accuracy 1) **[1]**

***** END OF PAPER *****