CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

CBSE 2026-27

English Language and Literature

Subject Code: 184 | Class X

Question Bank – Set 1

Questions in this Booklet

Ch.	Chapter	MCQs	A-R	VSA	SA	LA	CS	All
1	Reading Skills – Discursive Passage	0	0	0	0	0	3	**3**
2	Reading Skills – Case-based Passage	0	0	0	0	0	3	**3**
3	Grammar	6	0	4	0	0	0	**10**
4	Writing Skills – Formal Letter	0	0	0	0	3	0	**3**
5	Writing Skills – Analytical Paragraph	0	0	0	0	3	0	**3**
6	First Flight – Prose and Drama	10	3	4	6	3	3	**29**
7	First Flight – Poetry	9	3	3	5	3	3	**26**
8	Footprints Without Feet	9	3	3	5	3	3	**26**
	Total	**34**	**9**	**14**	**16**	**15**	**15**	**103**

MCQs = Multiple Choice; A-R = Assertion–Reason; VSA = Very Short Answer; SA = Short Answer; LA = Long Answer; CS = Case Study / Source-based.

Section A (Ch. 1–2): Reading; Section B (Ch. 3–5): Grammar and Writing; Section C (Ch. 6–8): Literature (First Flight, Footprints Without Feet). Board examination: 80 marks, 3 hours. Questions tagged [SQP/Board year] are from CBSE papers; untagged questions are new CBSE-style questions aligned to the 2026-27 curriculum.

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Answer Key (MCQs and Assertion–Reason) **26**

1. Reading Skills – Discursive Passage

Case Study

Passage:

(1) Saffron is a spice that has long been revered across the globe, captivating hearts and palates with its deep-red hue and complex flavour. It is one of the most prized spices that you can find on this planet. Just like gold is among the most valuable metals in the world, saffron means the same in the world of spices. Also known as 'kesar' in Hindi, it has a rich history and is often called an ancient spice. Saffron is being used since ages in various foods made for the royals and the elite as it contains medicinal properties.

(2) Originating from the delicate stigma of the saffron crocus flower, it transforms the ordinary into the extraordinary, infusing dishes with a subtle, earthy sweetness that adds a special taste to the palate. Saffron has a strong exotic aroma and a unique flavour and is used to colour and flavour many Mediterranean and Asian dishes, particularly rice, fish and English, Scandinavian, and Balkan breads.

(3) Saffron forms the backbone of several iconic dishes from around the world, such as the Spanish rice and seafood dish Paella, the French stew Bouillabaisse, the Italian rice dish Risotto Milanese, the Indian ice cream Kesar Kulfi, the Pakistani rice dish Biryani, and baked Iranian rice Tachin. Saffron's rich red colour is attributed to crocin; its bitter taste, to picrocrocin; and its distinctive aroma, to safranal.

(4) Saffron is cultivated chiefly in Iran but is also grown in Spain, France, Italy, and parts of India. A labour-intensive crop, the three stigmas are handpicked from each flower, spread on trays, and dried over charcoal fires for use as a food flavouring and colouring agent.

(5) Most historians speculate it was first domesticated in Iran, but south-western Greek islands remain strong contenders. Traders, conquerors, and world explorers introduced it to China, India and the Middle East. From there, it travelled to Mediterranean Europe.

(6) The high retail value of saffron is maintained in world markets because of labour-intensive harvesting methods, which require some 444,000 hand-picked saffron stigmas per kilogram — equivalently, 150,000 crocus flowers per kilogram. Forty hours of labour are needed to pick 150,000 flowers. Almost all saffron grows in a belt from Spain in the west to India in the east. Iran is responsible for around 88% of global production.

(7) Given its high price, adulteration is quite common, unfortunately. Adulterants like beetroot or pomegranate are used to enhance red colour; silk fibres, oil, or wax are used to add bulk, and powdered saffron can be adulterated with turmeric and paprika. *(447 words)*

Q1. Read the passage given above and answer the questions that follow. **[10]**

[Board 2025 (2/1/1)]

(i) What is the tone of the writer in the given lines? Rationalise your response in about 40 words.

"Saffron is being used since ages in various foods made for the royals and the elite as it contains medicinal properties." (Paragraph 1) [1]

(ii) Which of the following statements best describes the comparison made in the sentence?

"Just like gold is among the most valuable metals in the world, saffron means the same in the world of spices." (Paragraph 1)

(a) Gold and saffron have similar physical properties.
(b) Gold and saffron have equal monetary value.
(c) Saffron is considered the most valuable spice, similar to how gold is valued among metals.
(d) Gold and saffron are both rare commodities in the global market. [1]

(iii) List any two points why saffron is revered across the globe. (Paragraphs 2 and 3) [2]

(iv) Fill in the blank from the given options:

In the phrase 'backbone of several iconic dishes', the word 'iconic' refers to _____. (Paragraph 3)
(a) delicately cooked (b) widely recognized (c) peculiar and rare (d) strange and infamous [1]

(v) Complete the sentence appropriately:

Saffron has a labour-intensive cultivation process which involves _____. (Paragraph 4) [2]

(vi) State whether the following statement is True or False:

According to historians, saffron was first used in the kitchens in Iran. (Paragraph 5) [1]

(vii) Which of the following statements best describes the reason for saffron's high retail value? (Paragraph 6)

(a) Due to its magical or mystical properties.

(b) Because it can only be grown in specific regions.

(c) Due to its labour-intensive cultivation process and its relatively low yield per plant.

(d) Because traders, conquerors, and world explorers hoard it. [1]

(viii) Support the writer's view with evidence from the text that saffron is often adulterated. (Paragraph 7) [1]

Passage:

(1) Have you ever really looked at a toy store shelf and wondered what you're actually looking at? Rows upon rows of plastic products — bright, shiny, and visually appealing. We barely question them anymore. But here's a question worth asking: does the type of toy we choose really matter? The answer might surprise you. It turns out that choosing between a conventional plastic toy and an eco-friendly alternative is about far more than just grabbing something off the shelf.

(2) Let's be honest — plastic toys are everywhere. They have been the default choice for generations, and there's a reason: they're affordable, they're designed to grab attention, and they work. However, what exactly are we getting when we buy a mass-produced plastic toy? Often, we're getting something made with chemicals like BPA and lead, substances that make manufacturing cheaper. These aren't just abstract risks floating in the background. They're real concerns that affect real people, especially children who interact with these toys daily.

(3) This is precisely why eco-friendly toys matter so much. Crafted from organic cotton, sustainable wood, and recycled materials, they ask a fundamental question: what if toys could be safe, engaging, and environmentally responsible all at once? When we choose these alternatives, we're not just buying a toy — we're making a statement about what we value.

(4) Ever noticed how a wooden block can keep a child entertained for hours, while some plastic gadget loses its appeal in minutes? There's a reason for that. Eco-friendly toys often engage children's minds differently. Natural materials offer something special — rich textures, varied tactile experiences, and a kind of sensory richness that engages the brain in deeper ways. A wooden building set doesn't just entertain; it challenges children to think, problem-solve, and create. It demands imagination in a way that pre-programmed, plastic alternatives never can.

(5) Think about the typical lifespan of a plastic toy. It breaks, it ends up in landfills, and it's replaced. Eco-friendly toys, however, are designed to survive. They're built to last years, to be passed along, to become keepsakes rather than waste. This durability speaks volumes about the difference between toys made purely for profit and toys made with purpose.

(6) Ultimately, the choice between conventional and eco-friendly toys reflects something deeper: how we think about consumption itself. Do we want a world where toys are disposable trinkets, or do we want objects that matter — that are safe, engaging, and kind to the planet? It's not just about toys. It's about the choices we make every single day and what those choices say about who we are and what kind of future we're building.

(435 words)

Q2. Read the passage given above and answer the questions that follow. **[10]**

[SQP 2026-27]

(i) In Paragraph 1, what does the phrase 'rows upon rows of plastic products' emphasise? [1]

(ii) Complete the following with the correct option from the two given.

When the writer says, 'These aren't just abstract risks floating in the background', he refers to _____. (paragraph 2)

(a) the potential health hazards present in mass-produced plastic toys that consumers often ignore or are unaware of.

(b) the general concerns about toy safety that exist in society but don't directly affect individual purchasing decisions. [1]

(iii) The writer mentions, 'organic cotton, sustainable wood, and recycled materials' in paragraph 3. Which of the following is an example of 'recycled material'?
(a) Hand spun clothes certified by environmental organisations
(b) Cotton grown without pesticides or synthetic fertilisers
(c) Plastic bottles processed and converted into shoes
(d) Wood treated with chemical preservatives to extend lifespan [1]

(iv) In paragraphs 2 and 3, the writer contrasts the characteristics of plastic toys with eco-friendly toys. What does this comparison reveal about the writer's perspective on consumer responsibility? [2]

(v) Identify whether the following statement is True or False. (Paragraph 4)

The sensory richness of eco-friendly toys primarily enhances children's entertainment value rather than their cognitive development. [1]

(vi) Complete the analogy by selecting the correct option.

disposable trinkets : landfills :: _____ : _____
(a) eco-friendly toys : environmental responsibility
(b) meaningful keepsakes : future generations [1]

(vii) Read the statements (i)–(v) given below and select the option that correctly classifies them as Facts (F) or Opinions (O).

(i) BPA and lead are used in the production of mass-produced plastic toys.

(ii) Plastic toys are affordable and attractive, which makes them popular.

(iii) Eco-friendly toys are designed to survive longer and are not discarded as waste.

(iv) Wooden toys engage children's minds in deeper and more meaningful ways than plastic toys.

(v) The choice between plastic and eco-friendly toys is about mindful consumption.
(a) (i) O (ii) O (iii) F (iv) F (v) O
(b) (i) F (ii) F (iii) O (iv) O (v) F
(c) (i) O (ii) F (iii) F (iv) O (v) O
(d) (i) F (ii) O (iii) F (iv) O (v) O [1]

(viii) What might be the author's purpose of asking rhetorical questions throughout the passage? [2]

Passage:

(1) If they go unaddressed, life's annoyances can affect your well-being. Scientific studies have found that people who rate high on tests for anger are at an increased risk for high blood pressure and heart disease. To process anger in a healthy way, Todd Kashdan, a psychology professor at George Mason University in Virginia, recommends you attempt to understand why you feel upset. Without pinpointing why you're angry, he says, "You can't get a foothold to figure out what your body is mobilizing to do."

(2) One of the biggest annoyances in life is the feeling that you have been wronged — the sense that you deserved better, or that an injustice has occurred. This emotion can be mild irritation, or it can become a lasting grievance. Research on forgiveness has shown that people who rehearse their grievances repeatedly — retelling the story of the wrong, reliving the anger — keep the stress response alive far longer than those who process the episode and move on.

(3) The body keeps the score, so to speak: each retelling floods the system with stress hormones once more. Over time, this can wear down both mental and physical health. The alternative, psychologists suggest, is not to suppress anger but to give it a proper channel — writing about it, talking it through with a friend, or even walking briskly until the surge subsides.

(4) Interestingly, forgiveness is not the same as forgetting, nor is it excusing the wrong. It simply means deciding that you will no longer let the event control your inner life. Studies of people who practise forgiveness report lower levels of anxiety, better sleep, and even improved immunity. Far from being a favour to the offender, forgiveness is a gift to oneself.

(5) There is a practical side to this as well. Workplaces that encourage open communication report fewer long-running feuds; families that address small irritations early avoid explosive arguments later. In each case, the principle is the same: an emotion acknowledged early is an emotion managed well.

(6) None of this means you will never feel angry. You will. Anger is a signal, not a defect — it tells you that something matters to you. The skill lies in reading the signal correctly, and responding to the situation rather than merely reacting to the feeling. *(403 words)*

Q3. Read the passage given above and answer the questions that follow. **[10]**

[BoardComptt 2024 (2/S/1)]

(i) Why does the writer say that unaddressed annoyances 'can affect your well-being'? (Paragraph 1) [1]

(ii) Complete the following with the correct option from the two given:

According to the writer, forgiveness means _____. (paragraph 4)
(a) forgetting the wrong and excusing the offender.
(b) deciding that the event will no longer control your inner life. [1]

(iii) What does the phrase 'The body keeps the score' suggest? (Paragraph 3)
(a) Physical health improves with exercise.
(b) The body records the physical effects of repeated anger.
(c) Anger can be measured accurately by doctors.
(d) Stress hormones are imaginary. [1]

(iv) The passage notes that 'forgiveness is a gift to oneself'. Explain the writer's reasoning in about 40 words. [2]

(v) Identify whether the following statement is True or False:

The writer recommends suppressing anger to protect health. (Paragraph 3) [1]

(vi) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the passage:

An emotion acknowledged early is an emotion _____. [1]

(vii) Select the option that displays a cause–effect relationship:

	Cause	**Effect**
(a)	open communication at work	fewer long-running feuds
(b)	better sleep	lower anxiety
(c)	improved immunity	forgiveness
(d)	brisk walking	anger

[1]

(viii) What does the writer mean by 'Anger is a signal, not a defect'? Answer in about 40 words with reference to the last paragraph. [2]

2. Reading Skills – Case-based Passage

Case Study

Passage:

The Rise of Electric Vehicles in India

(1) Electric Vehicles (EVs) are gaining significant traction globally. In India, the push for EVs is driven by concerns over air pollution, rising fuel costs and government's commitment to reducing carbon emissions. The Indian Government has set ambitious targets for EV adoption, aiming for 30% of private cars, 70% of commercial vehicles, and 80% of two- and three-wheelers to be electric by 2030.

(2) The benefits of EVs extend beyond environmental impact: lower running cost due to cheaper electricity, reduced maintenance because of fewer moving parts, and lower noise pollution in urban areas.

(3) Despite the promising outlook, the EV industry in India faces several challenges currently. While public charging stations are slowly increasing, their availability, especially in semi-urban and rural areas, remains a bottleneck. The initial high purchase cost of EVs and concerns about range — or the fear of running out of charge — are other causes of anxiety.

(4) To overcome these hurdles, the government is offering subsidies and tax benefits to make EVs more affordable. Private companies are investing in new EV models with improved battery technology for longer ranges, and battery swapping technology is also being explored as a quick alternative to traditional charging.

(5) The Indian EV market is witnessing rapid growth, with sales figures steadily climbing. In 2023, India recorded sales of over 1.5 million EVs, a significant jump from previous years. Two-wheelers dominated the sales, followed by three-wheelers and then passenger cars. States like Maharashtra, Delhi, and Karnataka have emerged as leaders in EV adoption.

EV adoption targets by 2030:

Vehicle type	Target
Private cars	30%
Commercial vehicles	70%
Two- and three-wheelers	80%

(245 words)

Q1. Read the passage given above and answer the questions that follow. **[10]**

[Board 2026 (2/5/1)]

(i) Electric vehicles offer multiple benefits in India.

Support the above statement in 40 words with evidence from the text. [2]

(ii) Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below:

Assertion: EVs are gaining traction in India.

Reason: The Indian government is committed to reducing carbon emissions.

(a) Both the assertion and reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
(b) Both the assertion and reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.
(c) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.
(d) The assertion is false, but the reason is true. [1]

(iii) Justify the following statement:

Despite governmental support, the initial cost of EVs remains a challenge for consumers. [1]

(iv) Complete the following with one suitable reason from the text:

The silent operation of EVs contributes to better urban living because _____. [1]

(v) 'In 2023, India recorded sales of over 1.5 million EVs, a significant jump from previous years.' State any one inference that can be drawn from the above statement. [1]

(vi) According to the passage, what is 'range anxiety' in the context of electric vehicles? [1]

(vii) Based on the given text, which type of EV dominated sales in India in 2023? [1]

(viii)Complete the sentence suitably:

To address the challenge of charging infrastructure, various initiatives are being undertaken, such as _____. [1]

(ix) Give one reason to support why the adoption of EVs is slow in some parts of India. [1]

Passage:

(1) The craze for cosmetics has escalated globally, driven by evolving beauty standards and social media influence. The cosmetics industry thrives on innovation, offering various products catering to various skin types and preferences. In India, the cosmetics industry has witnessed a remarkable growth over the past decade, driven by rising 'disposable incomes', increased urbanization, and changing lifestyles. In contemporary times, people are more aware about their personal grooming.

(2) In the year 2024, the Indian cosmetics market generated revenue of approximately Rs 1,34,000 crore and is projected to reach around Rs 2,40,000 crore by 2028. This robust performance is driven by strong e-commerce and growing demand for organic and premium product offerings due to increasing awareness of personal grooming and skin care routines among consumers, especially teenagers and young adults, who are the dominant demographic in cosmetics purchase, as they seek trendy and innovative solutions.

(3) The cosmetics industry is broadly divided into various segments such as skin care, hair care, colour cosmetics, fragrances, and personal hygiene products. Skincare leads the segments, accounting for nearly 35% of the market, followed by hair care at 25%. Colour cosmetics — including make-up products — have seen significant growth, especially post-pandemic, due to the rise of e-commerce and social media. E-commerce platforms have played a crucial role in expanding access to cosmetics especially in Tier II and Tier III cities. In fact, online sales contribute to around 25% of total cosmetics sales in India.

Indian cosmetics market:

Revenue	**Value**
2024	Rs 1,34,000 crore
2028 (projected)	Rs 2,40,000 crore
Segment share	**Share of market**
Skin care	35%
Hair care	25%
Online sales share of total	25%

(250 words)

Q2. Read the passage given above and answer the questions that follow. **[10]**

[Board 2026 (2/2/1)]

(i) Complete the sentence with a reason:

The global demand for beauty products has intensified because of _____. (Paragraph 1) [1]

(ii) What does the phrase 'thrives on innovation' tell us about the cosmetics industry? (Paragraph 1)
(a) The industry is slow-growing.
(b) The industry is growing and evolving by the day.
(c) The industry is becoming popular in rural areas.
(d) The industry is gradually becoming more expensive. [1]

(iii) Identify the word that indicates that the cosmetics industry is anticipated to grow. (Paragraph 2) [1]

(iv) Given that teenagers and young adults form the primary group for cosmetics purchases, what are the key factors that shape their buying decisions? (Paragraph 2) [1]

(v) Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below.

Assertion: The Indian cosmetics market generated revenue of approximately Rs 1,34,000 crore in 2024.

Reason: It became possible due to strong e-commerce and growing demand for organic and premium product offerings.

(a) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, and the Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion.
(b) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, but the Reason is not the correct explanation of the Assertion.

(c) The Assertion is true, but the Reason is false.
(d) The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true. [1]

(vi) How has the rise of e-commerce platforms impacted the revenue of the Indian cosmetics industry? Explain in 30–40 words. (Paragraph 3) [1]

(vii) Based on your understanding of paragraph 3, fill in the blank with a suitable option:

The skincare segment currently dominates the Indian cosmetics industry. Currently its share is _____ (20%, 25%, 35%) approximately. [1]

(viii) Based on the table, by what percentage is the 2028 projected revenue higher than the 2024 revenue? [2]

(ix) Complete the sentence suitably:

Men's grooming has emerged as a significant segment because _____. [1]

Passage:

(1) Silk is a natural protein fibre, some forms of which can be woven into textiles. Silk has a long history in India. It is known as Resham in eastern and northern India, and Pattu in the southern parts of India. India is the second largest producer of silk in the world after China.

(2) Silk is renowned for its luxurious qualities with a natural soft and smooth texture that feels comfortable on the skin. One of its unique qualities is to absorb and release moisture, regulating the body temperature, and keeping the wearer cool and dry.

(3) Silk is one of the strongest natural fibres, but it loses up to 20% of its strength when wet. Its elasticity is moderate to poor: if elongated even a small amount, it remains stretched. It can be weakened if exposed to too much sunlight. It may also be attacked by insects, especially if left dirty.

(4) The process of silk production is known as sericulture. Silk is produced by several insects; but, generally, only the silk of moth caterpillars has been used for textile manufacturing. To produce 1 kg of silk, 104 kg of mulberry leaves must be eaten by 3000 silkworms.

Raw silk production by state, 2021 (metric tonnes):

State	Production (MT)
Karnataka	8483
Andhra Pradesh	5520
Assam	5038
Chhattisgarh	248
Nagaland	230
Uttar Pradesh	179

(248 words)

Q3. Read the passage given above and answer the questions that follow. **[10]**

[Board 2025 (2/3/1)]

(i) Silk is a popular fabric in India. Support the above statement in 40 words with evidence from the text. [2]

(ii) Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below.

Assertion: Silk feels comfortable to the skin.

Reason: It is made of natural protein fibre.
(a) Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
(b) Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.
(c) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.
(d) The assertion is false, but the reason is true. [1]

(iii) Justify the following statement:

Though one of the strongest natural fibres, silk remains stretched. [1]

(iv) According to the passage, in what way is sunlight harmful to silk? [1]

(v) 'To produce 1 kg of silk, 104 kg of mulberry leaves must be eaten by 3000 silkworms.' State any one

inference that can be drawn from the above statement. [1]

(vi) Complete the following with one suitable reason from the text:

Silk production work can be carried out by skilled artisans because _____. [1]

(vii) Based on the given table, which state was the smallest producer of raw silk in 2021? [1]

(viii) Which state's production is closest to half of Andhra Pradesh's? [1]

(ix) Give one reason to support why production of silk is limited. [1]

3. Grammar

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Q1. Fill in the blank with the correct option to complete the opening line of a formal letter.
[SQP 2024-25] Dear Mr. Patel,
We are pleased to inform you that your proposal for the upcoming project by the board of directors _____.**[1]**

(a) had endorsed (b) will have been endorsed (c) has been endorsed (d) have endorsed

Q2. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the official notice:
[SQP 2026-27] Notification to All Students,
Please note that _____ applicants who have submitted incomplete forms are required to resubmit their documents by Friday. **[1]**

(a) these (b) those (c) this (d) that

Q3. Select the correct option to complete the given sentence from the school's safety policy:
[SQP 2026-27] All students _____ wear their identification badges at all times while on campus premises.**[1]**

(a) might (b) could (c) must (d) may

Q4. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the sentence from a health article:
[Board 2022 (2/1/1), adapted] The human body needs _____ amount of rest daily to function properly. **[1]**

(a) a few (b) a little (c) many (d) several

Q5. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the given sentence from a health advisory:
[SQP 2023-24] Patients with fever _____ take plenty of fluids and rest. **[1]**

(a) can (b) should (c) may (d) would

Q6. The given question has an error. Select the option that correctly identifies the error and the correction:
[SQP 2026-27] What among these books have you read before?

No.	Error	Correction
A.	What	Which
B.	among	between
C.	these	this
D.	have	has

[1]

Very Short Answer (VSA)

Q7. Yamini asked her friend Shifa, "Would you like to come for my birthday party tomorrow?" Report Yamini's question correctly. **[1]**

[Board 2026 (2/1/1)]

Q8. Identify the error and suggest the correction.
[SQP 2026-27] Each of the participants in the Science Fair have been given a set of guidelines to follow during the competition.

Error	Correction
_____	_____

[1]

Q9. Abhilash and Neha had a conversation about a school project. Report Abhilash's question.
[SQP 2023-24] **Abhilash:** Is your best friend helping you in this venture? **[1]**

Q10. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the brackets, for the given portion of a report.

[Board 2026 (2/2/1)] The group _____ (walk) for hours through forests and hills in Mexico before it reached the barbed wire fence, marking the boundary of the forest. **[1]**

4. Writing Skills – Formal Letter

Long Answer (LA)

Q1. You are Divya/Divij Kumar, Director, Nurturing India, an organization providing skill education to youth. You believe that today's youth needs vocational and skill education that will encourage an independent and entrepreneurial lifestyle. Write a letter to the editor of a local daily expressing your views on the need and importance of skill education in creating employability and a self-employed independent generation. **[5]**

[Board 2026 (2/1/1)]

Q2. There are daily reports in the newspaper of fatal accidents due to reckless driving and road rage. Write a letter to the Commissioner of Traffic Police in about 120 words suggesting the need to take stricter action against the offenders. Recommend the use of social media to launch awareness campaigns about the implications of irresponsible driving. You are Shantanu/Savita, living at B-108 Krishi Apartments. **[5]**

[SQP 2024-25, Board 2024 (2/1/1) (similar theme)]

Q3. As Vaibhav, the Club in-charge of your school's Ecology Club, you strongly believe in the importance of starting Eco-Clubs in schools in the rural areas surrounding your city to promote the preservation and conservation of nature. Write a letter to the Education Secretary of your city, in about 120 words, highlighting the significance of ecological awareness and suggesting the need to establish Eco-Clubs in these schools.**[5]**

[SQP 2025-26]

5. Writing Skills – Analytical Paragraph

Long Answer (LA)

Q1. Vikram, a student of Grade X, has been offered the position of President of his school's Debate Club, which requires 5–7 hours weekly commitment. Study the SWOT notes and write an analytical paragraph in 100–120 words to evaluate whether accepting this responsibility is advisable.

[SQP 2026-27]

Strengths	**Weaknesses**
eloquent speaker; confident	procrastinates; disorganised
Opportunities	**Threats**
develop leadership skills; build portfolio for college	academic pressure in Grade X; may neglect board exam preparation

[5]

Q2. In the past few years, the teaching-learning process has taken a leap and gone beyond the four walls of the classroom. Today, it has become possible to learn not just by sitting in a physical classroom, but from anywhere. Given below is a chart depicting the differences between E-learning and Classroom learning. Write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words, assessing the benefits and drawbacks of both, by selecting features that support your analysis.

[Board 2025 (2/1/1) (5a)]

E-learning	**Classroom learning**
accessible anytime, anywhere at your own pace no travel costs, saves time	same place, same time caters to the needs of the class transportation cost and time consuming

[5]

Q3. Read the product details mentioned on an e-commerce website for a student study desk organiser.

[SQP 2026-27]

- Multi-compartment storage with dedicated slots for books, stationery, and digital devices
- Eco-friendly bamboo wood construction with non-toxic finish
- Adjustable shelves to accommodate different item sizes
- Compact yet spacious design suitable for a small room space
- Anti-slip base prevents sliding on smooth surfaces
- Available in natural wood and light oak finishes
- Backed by a 5-year durability guarantee

Now, analyse why this desk organiser would be a good purchase for students. Write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words, considering factors such as its sustainability, organisational efficiency, optimal use of space, functionality, and student appeal. **[5]**

6. First Flight – Prose and Drama

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Q1. As soon as the pilot was inside the cloud, _____. [The Black Aeroplane] **[1]**

(a) his ears got blocked
(b) he choked with fear
(c) his vision was obstructed
(d) he was jumping up and down

Q2. Which of the following is NOT a reason why Lomov thinks he must marry? [The Proposal] **[1]**

(a) He feels he is getting on in years.
(b) He wants a home of his own.
(c) His aunt wants him to settle down.
(d) He is in love with Natalya.

Q3. The main quarrel between Lomov and Natalya in the play is about [The Proposal] **[1]**

(a) a horse race
(b) the ownership of Oxen Meadows
(c) the superiority of their dogs
(d) the date of the wedding

Q4. The author made a body-belt for Mijbil so that he could [Mijbil the Otter] **[1]**

(a) carry his food
(b) be taken on a lead to the bathroom safely
(c) keep himself warm
(d) sleep in the author's bed

Q5. Why did the pilot feel completely lost in the storm? [The Black Aeroplane] **[1]**

(a) He had run out of fuel.
(b) His compass and radio failed and he could not see where he was.
(c) He had lost his friend in the clouds.
(d) He was ill and could not fly.

Q6. Which of the following is NOT a part of the ideal Mandela describes? [Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom] **[1]**

(a) harmony among all persons
(b) equal opportunities for all
(c) domination of one race over another
(d) a democratic and free society

Q7. Which region is known as "the land of rolling hills"? [Coorg] **[1]**

(a) Assam
(b) Goa
(c) Coorg
(d) Kerala

Q8. Valli devoured everything with her eyes when she saw the new bus. This shows that she was [Madam Rides the Bus] **[1]**

(a) disinterested
(b) fascinated
(c) angry
(d) bored

Q9. According to Natalya, Oxen Meadows belonged to them because [The Proposal] **[1]**

(a) her grandfather had bought them
(b) both her grandfather and great-grandfather considered their land to extend to Burnt Marsh
(c) they had won them in a game
(d) the government had given them

Q10. Which statement best explains the young seagull's experience as he starts flying? [His First Flight] **[1]**

(a) He immediately mastered flying and was no longer afraid.
(b) He gradually gained confidence and joined his family in the air.
(c) He refused to fly and stayed on the ledge.
(d) He flew alone and avoided his family.

Assertion–Reason

Q11. **Assertion (A):** Anne finds writing in a diary comforting.
Reason (R): She feels she has a greater need to get all kinds of things off her chest, and paper will listen without judging her. [From the Diary of Anne Frank] **[1]**

(a) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
(b) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
(c) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
(d) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Q12. **Assertion (A):** Lomov's proposal is delivered in an agitated and comic manner.
Reason (R): He is nervous and keeps interrupting his speech with complaints about his heart and his health. [The Proposal] **[1]**
(a) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
(b) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
(c) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
(d) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Q13. **Assertion (A):** Valli is determined to achieve her ambition.
Reason (R): She overcomes family and social obstacles to ride the bus alone. [Madam Rides the Bus] **[1]**
(a) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
(b) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
(c) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
(d) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Very Short Answer (VSA)

Q14. What moral values did Kisa Gotami learn after the death of her son? [The Sermon at Benares] **[2]**

Q15. What happened when Maxwell took Mijbil to the bathroom? [Mijbil the Otter] **[2]**

Q16. How did the baker become synonymous with celebrations and occasions in Goa? [A Baker from Goa] **[2]**

Q17. What is Lomov pleading for? [The Proposal] **[1]**

Short Answer (SA)

Q18. Describe how the narrator's aeroplane was affected once it entered the clouds. [The Black Aeroplane] **[3]**

Q19. Family played a vital role in the first flight of the young seagull. Give examples to substantiate this statement. [His First Flight] **[3]**

Q20. Where is Coorg located? Write any two characteristics of the people of Coorg. [Coorg] **[3]**

Q21. Mandela says, "The policy of apartheid created a deep and lasting wound in my country and my people." Explain the significance of the word "wound" as used by Mandela. [Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom] **[3]**

Q22. Justify the opinion that the traditional baker and his bread play a significant role in the cultural and social fabric of Goan society. [A Baker from Goa] **[3]**

Q23. What does the narrator's dependence on an unseen helper reveal about trust in times of crisis? [The Black Aeroplane] **[3]**

Long Answer (LA)

Q24. "No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background or his religion." Do you agree? Elaborate on the basis of the chapter. (100–120 words) [Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom] **[6]**

Q25. How does Lencho's faith in God, as shown in "A Letter to God", contrast with the scepticism of Kisa Gotami in "The Sermon at Benares"? Support your answer with details from the two texts. (100–120 words) [The Sermon at Benares] **[6]**

Q26. Farce is a kind of comedy which includes situations and dialogues that are ridiculous, exaggerated and even absurd. Evaluate the play, *The Proposal*, as a farce. (100–120 words) [The Proposal] **[6]**

Case Study

Extract: Writing in a diary is a really strange experience for someone like me. Not only because I've never written anything before, but also because it seems to me that later on neither I nor anyone else will be interested in the musings of a thirteen-year-old schoolgirl. Oh well, it doesn't matter. I feel like writing, and I have an even greater need to get all kinds of things off my chest.
'Paper has more patience than people.' I thought of this saying on one of those days when I was feeling a little depressed and was sitting at home with my chin in my hands, bored and listless, wondering whether to stay in or go out. I finally stayed where I was, brooding: Yes, paper does have more patience and since I'm not planning to let anyone else read this stiff-backed notebook grandly referred to as a 'diary' unless I should ever find a real friend, it probably won't make a bit of difference. *(From the Diary of Anne Frank)*

Q27. Answer the following questions based on the extract above. **[5]**

[BoardComptt 2024 (2/S/1)]

(i) Anne will let no one read her diary unless she finds a real _____. [1]

(ii) Anne calls her diary a "stiff-backed notebook". This shows that she:
(a) respects the notebook deeply
(b) finds the diary formal and a little awkward
(c) hates writing
(d) loves the colour of the notebook [1]

(iii) Anne says that no one will be interested in the musings of a thirteen-year-old _____. [1]

(iv) Explain the meaning of "Paper has more patience than people" in about 40 words. [2]

Extract: Inside the clouds, everything was suddenly black. It was impossible to see anything outside the aeroplane. The old aeroplane jumped and twisted in the air. I looked at the compass. I couldn't believe my eyes the compass was turning round and round and round. It was dead. It would not work. The other instruments were suddenly dead, too. I tried the radio. ''Paris Control? Paris Control? Can you hear me?'' There was no answer. The radio was dead too. I had no radio, no compass, and I could not see where I was. I was lost in the storm. *(The Black Aeroplane)*

Q28. Answer the following questions based on the extract above. **[5]**

[Board 2023 (2/4/1)]

(i) As soon as the pilot was inside the cloud, _____.
(a) his ears got blocked
(b) he choked with fear
(c) his vision was obstructed
(d) he was jumping up and down [1]

(ii) The devices in the aeroplane were _____ (one word). [1]

(iii) The pilot could not see where he was because he was lost in the _____. [1]

(iv) What does the pilot's reaction to the failing instruments reveal about his mental state? Answer in about 40 words. [2]

Extract: 'I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.' *(Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom)*

Q29. Read the given extract and answer the questions that follow. **[5]**

[Board 2026 (2/5/1) (B)]

(i) What is the main ideal Mandela is talking about?
(a) economic prosperity
(b) representative and free society

(c) absolute power
(d) finishing racism [1]

(ii) How does the statement reflect Mandela's commitment to justice? (Answer in about 40 words) [2]

(iii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket:

Nelson's vision was not simply to reverse the oppression but to end it completely as he wishes to _____ (fight / appease) all forms of domination in which all persons live with equal opportunities. [1]

(iv) The phrase 'prepared to die' shows Mandela's:
(a) anxiety
(b) desperation
(c) passion
(d) uprightness [1]

7. First Flight – Poetry

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Q1. In the poem *Dust of Snow*, which negative symbols have been used to create a positive effect? [Dust of Snow] **[1]**

(a) hemlock tree; crow
(b) crow; snow
(c) snow; hemlock tree
(d) crow; dust

Q2. When the speaker says that ice "would suffice" to destroy the world, his tone is [Fire and Ice] **[1]**

(a) triumphant
(b) fearful
(c) matter-of-fact and understated
(d) desperate

Q3. The poet's chief concern in '*For Anne Gregory*' is [For Anne Gregory] **[1]**

(a) the value of physical beauty
(b) the value of inner qualities over outward appearance
(c) the joys of youthful romance
(d) the power of organised religion

Q4. When the speaker says 'A dime, another ball, is worthless', he means that [The Ball Poem] **[1]**

(a) money can buy the boy's happiness
(b) another ball cannot replace the emotional value of the lost one
(c) the boy must buy a new ball at once
(d) a dime is too little for anyone to care about

Q5. The tone of the poem '*How to Tell Wild Animals*' is best described as [How to Tell Wild Animals] **[1]**

(a) grave and mournful
(b) humorous and ironic
(c) romantic and tender
(d) angry and accusing

Q6. The speaker's tone in the lines 'But I can get a hair-dye / And set such colour there' is [For Anne Gregory] **[1]**

(a) thoughtful and serious
(b) ironic and playful
(c) agitated and angry
(d) authoritative and commanding

Q7. In the poem, which character 'cried for a nice safe cage'? [The Tale of Custard the Dragon] **[1]**

(a) Mustard
(b) Custard
(c) Ink
(d) Blink

Q8. In the poem, 'fire' and 'ice' respectively symbolise [Fire and Ice] **[1]**

(a) love and indifference
(b) desire and hatred
(c) passion and reason
(d) anger and fear

Q9. Identify the figure of speech used in the line 'The trees are stumbling forward into the night.' [The Trees] **[1]**

(a) simile
(b) metaphor
(c) personification
(d) hyperbole

Assertion–Reason

Q10. **Assertion (A):** The poet believes that ice too is capable of destroying the world.
Reason (R): Hatred, like desire, is a powerful and destructive human emotion. [Fire and Ice] **[1]**
(a) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
(b) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
(c) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
(d) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Q11. **Assertion (A):** The poet describes the tiger's stripes as 'vivid' even though the tiger is confined to a small cage.
Reason (R): The vivid stripes show that the tiger's natural beauty and spirit remain undimmed by captivity. [A Tiger in the Zoo] **[1]**

(a) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
(b) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
(c) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
(d) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Q12. **Assertion (A):** Custard, the cowardly dragon, becomes the hero of the poem at the end.
Reason (R): He eats the pirate who has threatened the household, and the others gather around him in glee. [The Tale of Custard the Dragon] **[1]**
(a) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
(b) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
(c) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
(d) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Very Short Answer (VSA)

Q13. Mention any two issues over which Amanda was nagged and scolded. [Amanda!] **[2]**

Q14. Why had the poet 'rued' the day? What saved a part of it for him? [Dust of Snow] **[2]**

Q15. What does the image of Amanda 'roaming barefoot in the dusty street' signify? [Amanda!] **[2]**

Short Answer (SA)

Q16. How does the poem use the 'cat metaphor' to characterise the fog's nature? Answer in about 40–50 words. [Fog] **[3]**

Q17. Explain why the poet personally holds the conviction that the world will primarily end in fire. [Fire and Ice] **[3]**

Q18. How does 'The Ball Poem' explore the theme of loss and its profound impact on an individual's emotional state and perception of the world? Answer in about 40–50 words. [The Ball Poem] **[3]**

Q19. Assess how the poem's message about not judging by appearances is still relevant today. Answer in about 40–50 words. [The Tale of Custard the Dragon] **[3]**

Q20. How does the line 'People will take balls, balls will be lost always' justify that material losses are necessary for emotional growth and for understanding the harsh realities of life? Answer in about 40–50 words. [The Ball Poem] **[3]**

Long Answer (LA)

Q21. The poems '*The Ball Poem*' and '*Dust of Snow*' capture brief moments that teach lasting lessons. How do these poems propose that momentary events generate a lasting impact? [Dust of Snow; The Ball Poem] **[6]**

Q22. Examine the similarities and differences between the tiger in '*A Tiger in the Zoo*' and the dragon in '*The Tale of Custard the Dragon*'. Answer in 100–120 words. [A Tiger in the Zoo; The Tale of Custard the Dragon] **[6]**

Q23. Amanda and Valli both represent a longing for freedom. Examine the above observation with reference to the two texts. Answer in 100–120 words. [Amanda!; Madam Rides the Bus] **[6]**

Case Study

Extract: Stop that slouching and sit up straight,
Amanda!
(There is a languid, emerald sea,
where the sole inhabitant is me —
a mermaid, drifting blissfully.) *(Amanda!)*

Q24. Answer the following questions based on the extract above. **[5]**

[Board 2025 (2/3/1), Board 2025 (2/5/1)]

(i) The speaker's command 'Stop that slouching and sit up straight' reveals that the speaker is:
(a) affectionate and gentle
(b) strict and concerned with proper behaviour
(c) playful and teasing
(d) fearful of Amanda [1]

(ii) Why is the second verse written in brackets? [1]

(iii) Amanda calls herself a mermaid because:
(a) mermaid is her favourite fantasy character
(b) she loves watching mermaids in water
(c) she longs to be free like a mermaid drifting in the sea
(d) she wants to sail with a mermaid in deep water [1]

(iv) Amanda wants to be the sole inhabitant of the sea. Elucidate. Answer in about 40 words. [2]

Extract: Some say the world will end in fire
Some say in ice.
From what I've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favour fire. *(Fire and Ice)*

Q25. Answer the following questions based on the extract above. **[5]**

[Board 2025 (2/2/1)]

(i) The speaker offers evidence to support his preference for one theory over the other. Mention the evidence. [1]

(ii) What is the prediction of the poet about how the world will come to an end? Answer in about 40 words. [2]

(iii) 'Fire' and 'Ice' are used in the poem as _____.
(a) similes (b) metaphors (c) repetition (d) oxymorons [1]

(iv) Comment on the overall mood of the extract. [1]

Extract: Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of bears,
And Ink and Blink chased lions down the stairs,
Mustard was as brave as a tiger in a rage,
But Custard cried for a nice safe cage. *(The Tale of Custard the Dragon)*

Q26. Answer the following questions based on the extract above. **[5]**

[Board 2024 (2/4/1)]

(i) Comment upon the contrast that is reflected in the last two lines of the extract. [1]

(ii) While describing Ink and Blink, the speaker says that they could chase lions down the stairs. By saying so, he is revealing the _____ characteristic of their personality. (Fill in with one word.) [1]

(iii) Name the rhyme scheme used in these four lines. [1]

(iv) Comment on the poet's use of language in these lines in about 40 words. [2]

8. Footprints Without Feet

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Q1. Anil's carelessness made stealing from him _____ for Hari Singh. [The Thief's Story] **[1]**

(a) uninteresting
(b) difficult
(c) systematic
(d) predictable

Q2. M. Loisel's sacrifice of the gun reveals him to be [The Necklace] **[1]**

(a) a careless spendthrift
(b) a loving husband who denied himself for Matilda's happiness
(c) a keen hunter who changed his mind
(d) a man who disliked his friends

Q3. The knock on the door was actually [The Midnight Visitor] **[1]**

(a) the Paris police checking on Ausable
(b) Max's assistants waiting outside
(c) the waiter Henry with the drink Ausable had ordered
(d) a hotel guest who had lost his way

Q4. The constable Jaffers's struggle in the bar of the inn is comic as well as terrifying because [Footprints Without Feet] **[1]**

(a) he arrested a man without a head and fought someone he could not see
(b) he was drunk and fought the furniture
(c) Griffin surrendered immediately
(d) the villagers found it funny and laughed

Q5. Horace Danby studied Shotover Grange for two weeks before the robbery because [A Question of Trust] **[1]**

(a) he admired its architecture
(b) he planned his theft meticulously, like every year
(c) the housekeeper had invited him
(d) he wanted to buy the house

Q6. At the surgery, Tricki's real "cure" was [A Triumph of Surgery] **[1]**

(a) the medicines Mr Herriot gave him
(b) a fortnight of strict diet, exercise and play with other dogs
(c) the eggs, wine and brandy Mrs Pumphrey sent
(d) the comfortable bed and coats he had brought

Q7. Hari Singh returned to Anil's room on the rainy night mainly because [The Thief's Story] **[1]**

(a) he feared the police would catch him at the station
(b) he realised that education mattered more to him than the money
(c) he wanted to return the money and confess
(d) he had nowhere else to keep the notes dry

Q8. Identify the option that aptly describes Griffin. [Footprints Without Feet] **[1]**

(a) greedy, yet kind
(b) proud and honourable
(c) considerate and selfless
(d) brilliant, but lawless

Q9. The Historian calls the twentieth century the "Era of the Book" because [The Book that Saved the Earth] **[1]**

(a) printing had just been invented
(b) books taught people how to, and when to, and where to, and why to — there were books about everything
(c) only scholars could read
(d) books had saved the Earth from an invasion

Assertion–Reason

Q10. **Assertion (A):** A book of nursery rhymes saved the Earth from a Martian invasion.
Reason (R): Think-Tank misread the rhymes as reports of advanced technology and weapons, and his fear led him to call off the invasion and flee. [The Book that Saved the Earth] **[1]**

(a) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
(b) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
(c) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
(d) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Q11. **Assertion (A):** Ebright's failure at his first county science fair was more valuable to him than an easy win.
Reason (R): Losing taught him that real science means doing genuine experiments rather than making neat displays, and it set the direction of all his later winning projects. [The Making of a Scientist] **[1]**
(a) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
(b) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
(c) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
(d) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Q12. **Assertion (A):** Anil hired Hari even though he could not pay him, and taught him to cook, write his name and add numbers.
Reason (R): Anil's unconditional trust and generosity gradually transformed Hari more than any punishment could have. [The Thief's Story] **[1]**
(a) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
(b) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
(c) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
(d) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Very Short Answer (VSA)

Q13. Why did no one believe Horace when he said the lady of the house had asked him to open the safe? [A Question of Trust] **[2]**

Q14. Bholi was a neglected child at home. Explain. [Bholi] **[2]**

Q15. How was Ebright an all-rounder? [The Making of a Scientist] **[2]**

Short Answer (SA)

Q16. How did Ausable get rid of Max without any weapon or physical fight? [The Midnight Visitor] **[3]**

Q17. Had Bholi not been educated, could she have refused to marry Bishamber? Comment. [Bholi] **[3]**

Q18. Compare Hari's initial approach to Anil with his honest smile at the story's end. What does this change reveal? [The Thief's Story] **[3]**

Q19. How does Matilda's desire for material wealth drive the plot of *The Necklace*? [The Necklace] **[3]**

Q20. Mr Herriot knew his patients and their owners "too well". How does this knowledge help him in his treatment of Tricki and Mrs Pumphrey? [A Triumph of Surgery] **[3]**

Long Answer (LA)

Q21. "That's why you wanted to hand me over to this heartless creature. But now the dumb cow, the stammering fool, is speaking. Do you want to hear more?" Trace the journey that takes Bholi from a "dumb-driven cow" to a woman who can say this to her family. What does her transformation show about the power of education? [Bholi] **[6]**

Q22. Hari Singh says — "He knew it but neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything." Anil successfully addressed the situation by not addressing it at all. Elaborate, based on your reading of *The Thief's Story*. [The Thief's Story] **[6]**

Q23. "Honour among thieves" is considered a popular code. Examine *A Question of Trust* as a story woven around this code. [A Question of Trust] **[6]**

Case Study

Extract: The question he tried to answer was simple: What is the purpose of the twelve tiny gold spots on a monarch pupa?
"Everyone assumed the spots were just ornamental," Ebright said. "But Dr Urquhart didn't believe it."
To find the answer, Ebright and another excellent science student first had to build a device that showed that the spots were producing a hormone necessary for the butterfly's full development. This project won Ebright first place in the county fair and entry into the International Science and Engineering Fair. There he won third place for zoology. He also got a chance to work during the summer at the entomology laboratory of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. *(The Making of a Scientist)*

Q24. Answer the following questions based on the extract above. **[5]**

[SQP 2023-24, sub-parts adapted]

(i) Ebright's research started with a question about the gold spots because _____. [1]

(ii) The word "ornamental" suggests that people believed the spots were:
(a) functional (b) merely decorative (c) dangerous (d) rare [1]

(iii) The string of awards in the extract (first place, third place, first place again) indicates _____. [1]

(iv) How does the extract show that questioning an assumption is at the heart of science? Answer in about 40 words. [2]

Extract: I followed casually.
"Hello again," he said.
I gave him my most appealing smile. "I want to work for you," I said.
"But I can't pay you."
I thought that over for a minute. Perhaps I had misjudged my man. I asked, "Can you feed me?"
"Can you cook?"
"I can cook," I lied again.
"If you can cook, then maybe I can feed you."
He took me to his room over the Jumna Sweet Shop and told me I could sleep on the balcony. But the meal I cooked that night must have been terrible because Anil gave it to a stray dog and told me to be off. But I just hung around, smiling in my most appealing way, and he couldn't help laughing. *(The Thief's Story)*

Q25. Answer the following questions based on the extract above. **[5]**

[SQP 2021-22, sub-parts adapted]

(i) "I can cook," I lied again. The word "again" suggests that _____. [1]

(ii) Anil's reaction to the terrible meal shows him to be:
(a) short-tempered and strict
(b) forgiving and humorous
(c) careless about food
(d) suspicious of Hari [1]

(iii) Even though Hari Singh followed Anil casually, it was a/an _____. [1]

(iv) Why does the author call Hari's smile "appealing"? What does this repeated smile reveal about Hari's approach to Anil? Answer in about 40 words. [2]

Extract: "It's not my balcony," Ausable said with extreme irritation. "It belongs to the next apartment." He glanced explanatorily at Fowler. "You see," he said, "this room used to be part of a large unit, and the next room — through that door there — used to be the living room. It had the balcony, which extends under my window now. You can get onto it from the empty room two doors down — and somebody did, last month. The management promised to block it off. But they haven't." *(The Midnight Visitor)*

Q26. Answer the following questions based on the extract above. **[5]**

[Board 2025 (2/3/1), sub-parts adapted]

(i) Ausable invented the story of the balcony because he wanted _____. [1]

(ii) Ausable spoke "with extreme irritation" because:
(a) he was truly angry with the management
(b) irritation made the complaint sound genuine
(c) Max had irritated him
(d) Fowler asked too many questions [1]

(iii) The balcony story made Max believe that he could _____. [1]

(iv) How does Ausable's detailed explanation make his invention believable? Answer in about 40 words. [2]

Answer Key (MCQs and Assertion–Reason)

Ch. 3: Q1-(c), Q2-(b), Q3-(c), Q4-(b), Q5-(b), Q6-(a)

Ch. 6: Q1-(c), Q2-(d), Q3-(b), Q4-(b), Q5-(b), Q6-(c), Q7-(c), Q8-(b), Q9-(b), Q10-(b), Q11-(a), Q12-(a), Q13-(a)

Ch. 7: Q1-(a), Q2-(c), Q3-(b), Q4-(b), Q5-(b), Q6-(b), Q7-(b), Q8-(b), Q9-(c), Q10-(a), Q11-(a), Q12-(a)

Ch. 8: Q1-(a), Q2-(b), Q3-(c), Q4-(a), Q5-(b), Q6-(b), Q7-(b), Q8-(d), Q9-(b), Q10-(a), Q11-(a), Q12-(a)