CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

CBSE 2026-27

English Language and Literature

Subject Code: 184 | Class X

Question Bank – Set 2

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) The growing preference for indigenous craft items is a welcome trend in today's globalised world, where mass-produced goods often dominate markets. These handcrafted products, rooted in the cultural and artistic traditions of their regions, offer more than just aesthetic appeal. They symbolise sustainability, support local economies, and preserve the heritage of diverse communities.

(2) Indigenous crafts are often made using locally sourced, natural materials and traditional techniques passed down through generations. Unlike factory-made products, they are usually created in small batches, which reduces overproduction and waste. The processes involved are generally eco-friendly, relying on human skill rather than energy-intensive machinery. In this way, choosing a handloom saree or a terracotta pot over a synthetic alternative is not merely a style statement — it is an environmentally conscious decision.

(3) The economic impact of this preference is equally significant. Purchasing indigenous crafts directly supports artisans and their families, many of whom belong to rural communities with limited alternative sources of income. Craft clusters in regions such as Kutch, Channapatna and Bastar have witnessed renewed demand, allowing younger generations to see traditional skills as viable livelihoods rather than relics of the past. When a craft earns respect and a fair price, the knowledge it carries survives.

(4) There is, however, a challenge that cannot be ignored. Cheap imitations, often machine-made and marketed as 'ethnic', threaten the authenticity of genuine handcrafted products. Consumers attracted by lower prices may unknowingly contribute to the decline of the very traditions they wish to celebrate. Certifications such as the GI (Geographical Indication) tag help buyers distinguish the authentic from the counterfeit, but awareness remains limited.

(5) Schools, museums and designers increasingly collaborate with artisans to keep crafts relevant — adapting traditional forms to contemporary tastes without diluting their essence. Such initiatives indicate that heritage need not be frozen in time; it can evolve while retaining its soul.

(6) Ultimately, every purchase of an indigenous craft item is a small act of preservation. It affirms that the human hand still matters, that communities matter, and that the stories woven into an object are as valuable as the object itself. In a world racing towards uniformity, the conscious choice of craft is a quiet but powerful celebration of diversity. *(400 words)*

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

[SQP 2025-26]

(i) Why does the writer call the growing preference for indigenous craft items 'a welcome trend' in a globalised world? Answer in about 40 words. [1]

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

Assertion (A): Choosing handcrafted products is an environmentally conscious decision.

Reason (R): Indigenous crafts rely on locally sourced natural materials and human skill rather than energy-intensive machinery.

(a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(c) A is true but R is false.
(d) A is false but R is true. [1]

(iii) Complete the following with a phrase from paragraph 3:

Cause	Effect
Renewed demand in craft clusters	_____

[1]

(iv) Based on the reading of paragraphs 2 and 4, examine the connection between the price of an 'ethnic' product and the survival of a craft tradition. [2]

(v) The writer mentions 'relics of the past'. A relic is something that is _____.
(a) treasured and displayed (b) outdated and discarded (c) rare and expensive (d) newly discovered [1]

(vi) Give one reason why cheap machine-made imitations are described as a threat to authenticity. [1]

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

According to the passage, the GI tag is widely understood and used by most consumers. (Paragraph 4) [1]

(viii) What does the author mean by 'heritage need not be frozen in time'? Answer in about 40 words, citing an example from the passage. [2]

Passage:

(1) Water is one of the most essential resources on Earth, yet it is often taken for granted. Despite its abundance, the reality is that only a small fraction of the world's water is fresh and available for human use. With increasing populations, climate change, and industrial demands, the pressure on our water resources is growing. This makes water conservation not just a collective responsibility but a crucial individual duty. Each person's effort towards conserving water can significantly impact the preservation of this vital resource for future generations.
(2) The concept of water conservation involves both reducing wastage and protecting water sources from pollution. On an individual level, simple habits play a significant role. For instance, turning off the tap while brushing teeth can save up to 200 gallons of water per month for a single household. Similarly, fixing leaky taps and pipes immediately prevents the loss of thousands of litres annually. Such small yet consistent actions demonstrate how personal discipline directly contributes to resource preservation.
(3) Beyond the household, communities and institutions hold considerable power to effect change. Rainwater harvesting systems in schools and public buildings can replenish groundwater levels and reduce dependence on municipal supply. Moreover, awareness campaigns can transform attitudes, making conservation a shared social value rather than a compulsory regulation. When people understand the 'why' behind an action, they are more likely to adopt and sustain it.
(4) Agriculture, which consumes nearly 70% of the world's freshwater, presents both a challenge and an opportunity. Modern irrigation techniques such as drip irrigation deliver water directly to plant roots, minimising evaporation and runoff. Farmers who adopt such methods not only conserve water but also improve crop yields — a rare alignment of economic and environmental interests.
(5) Critics sometimes argue that individual efforts are too small to matter against the scale of global water scarcity. However, this view underestimates the cumulative power of collective action. Movements across cities and villages have shown that when households, farmers and industries each do their part, the difference is measurable. Every drop saved is a drop available for someone else.
(6) Ultimately, water conservation is not about sacrifice; it is about mindfulness. It asks us to value what flows freely from our taps, to recognise the invisible cost of every wasted litre, and to act — in our kitchens, fields and factories — as guardians of a resource that belongs to everyone and to no one. *(420 words)*

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

[SQP 2024-25]

(i) Why does the writer call water conservation 'a crucial individual duty' rather than only a collective responsibility? (Paragraph 1) [1]

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

Assertion (A): Turning off the tap while brushing teeth saves significant water.

Reason (R): Individual discipline directly contributes to resource preservation.
(a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(c) A is true but R is false.
(d) A is false but R is true. [1]

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

Rainwater harvesting systems in schools and public buildings are valuable because they _____. (paragraph 3)

(a) replenish groundwater levels and reduce dependence on municipal supply.
(b) transform attitudes by making conservation a compulsory regulation. [1]

(iv) The writer notes that drip irrigation creates 'a rare alignment of economic and environmental interests'. Explain this statement in about 40 words. (Paragraph 4) [2]

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

Agriculture consumes nearly 70% of the world's freshwater. (Paragraph 4) [1]

(vi) Complete the analogy with a word or phrase from the passage:

wasteful : mindful :: _____ : guardian [1]

(vii) The writer counters the critics' argument in paragraph 5 by _____.
(a) dismissing individual efforts as ineffective
(b) citing the cumulative power of collective action
(c) proving global water scarcity is exaggerated
(d) blaming industries for water pollution [1]

(viii) What is the author's overall message in the concluding paragraph? Rationalise in about 40 words. [2]

Passage:

(1) The average teenager now spends more hours each day looking at screens than sleeping. Phones wake us, accompany our meals, fill our queues, and often are the last thing we see at night. Nobody planned this. It arrived one notification at a time — and it is why the idea of a 'digital detox', a deliberate break from screens, has moved from wellness blogs to school timetables and family dinner-table rules.

(2) The case for occasional disconnection is grounded in how attention works. Every ping claims a tiny slice of focus, and research on task-switching suggests that recovering deep concentration after an interruption can take many minutes. Over a day, these fragments add up: hours in which we are present in body but absent in mind. Sleep suffers too, as evening screen light delays the release of the hormone that tells the body it is night.

(3) What a detox does is restore contrast. When a group of students surrendered their phones for a weekend, many reported — after an initial restless day — sharper conversations, better sleep, and a strange, renewed interest in the physical world around them. The phone returned on Monday; what many of them kept was not the absence of the device but a new awareness of when it was using them rather than the other way round.

(4) The aim, enthusiasts insist, is not abstinence but balance. A detox that ends in an all-night binge of missed messages has missed the point. The better goal is what some researchers call 'digital minimalism': keeping the tools that genuinely serve you — maps, calls, learning apps — and cutting the mechanics engineered merely to hold your attention.

(5) Critics call the movement a fad, arguing that screens are simply where modern life happens — classrooms, friendships, banking, even the protest movements of the age all live on them. Telling the young to log off, they say, is like telling a previous generation to give up reading.

(6) There is truth on both sides, which is why the quiet middle path is winning: not the total ban, not the surrendered evening, but the deliberate rule — no phones at meals, one hour offline before bed, notifications turned off by default. The screen is a magnificent servant and a poor master, and the detox conversation, at bottom, is about deciding which of the two it shall be. *(421 words)*

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

(i) Why does the writer say that the screen problem 'arrived one notification at a time'? (Paragraph 1) [1]

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

The writer notes that recovering deep concentration after an interruption 'can take many minutes' in order to _____. (paragraph 2)
(a) prove that notifications make multi-tasking impossible for everyone.
(b) show how small interruptions add up to a large daily loss of focus. [1]

(iii) Based on your reading of paragraph 2, list two ways in which heavy screen use affects sleep. [1]

(iv) The writer describes the students' phone-free weekend in paragraph 3. Examine in about 40 words what the students kept after the weekend, and why it matters more than the detox itself. [2]

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

According to the writer, the goal of a digital detox is to give up screens permanently. (Paragraph 4) [1]

(vi) In the phrase 'digital minimalism', the word 'minimalism' refers to _____.
(a) banning all devices (b) keeping only the tools that genuinely serve you (c) buying fewer gadgets
(d) using screens for the minimum time each day [1]

(vii) Select the option that best describes the writer's response to the critics in paragraphs 5 and 6.
(a) He dismisses them as old-fashioned.
(b) He accepts their point entirely and withdraws his argument.
(c) He acknowledges their point and proposes deliberate, moderate rules instead of a total ban.
(d) He proves their argument false with the students' experiment. [1]

(viii) What does the writer mean by 'The screen is a magnificent servant and a poor master'? Answer in about 40 words. [2]

2. Reading Skills – Case-based Passage

Case Study

Passage:

(1) The National Education Policy 2020 proposes the revision and revamping of all aspects of education, including the educational structure, regulations and governance, to create a new system which is aligned with the aspirational goals of 21st century students. According to the policy, by 2025, at least 50% of learners through the school and higher education system shall have exposure to skill education, for which a clear action plan with targets and timelines are to be developed.

(2) The policy aims to overcome the social status hierarchy associated with skill education and integration of skill education into mainstream education in all educational institutions in a phased manner. Beginning with skill exposure at early ages in middle and secondary school, quality skill education will be integrated smoothly into school and higher education.

(3) Every child will learn at least one skill and is exposed to several more. This would lead to emphasizing the dignity of labour and importance of various vocations involving Indian arts and artisanship.

(4) The development of skill capacities will go hand-in-hand with the development of 'academic' or other capacities. To achieve this objective, secondary schools will have to collaborate with Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), Polytechnics, Local Industry, etc. Skill labs will also be set up and created in the schools in a Hub and Spoke model, which will allow other schools to use the facility. Higher education institutions will offer skill education either on their own or in partnership with industry and other institutions.

The global scenario — percentage of students in skill education:

Country	Students in skill education
South Korea	96%
Germany	75%
USA	52%
Denmark	50%
Egypt	30
India	5%

(249 words)

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

[Board 2024 (2/1/1)]

(i) Based on the reading of the extract, list two objectives of NEP 2020. [2]

(ii) Fill in the blank with the appropriate option from those given in the brackets, based on the understanding of paragraph 4:

The statement 'The development of skill capacities will go hand-in-hand with the development of academic or other capacities' is a _____ (fact / opinion) because it is a _____ (subjective judgement / objective detail). [1]

(iii) Select the option that corresponds to the meaning of the statement given below:

"According to the policy, by 2025, at least 50% of learners through the school and higher education system shall have exposure to skill education."

(a) Maximum 50% learners shall have exposure to technical education.
(b) Minimum 50% learners shall have exposure to technical education.
(c) Minimum 50% learners shall have exposure to skill education.
(d) Maximum 50% learners shall have exposure to skill education. [1]

(iv) Based on the understanding of the passage, complete the following statement appropriately:

The benefit of the Hub and Spoke model will be _____. [1]

(v) Complete the following analogy correctly with a word/phrase from paragraph 3:

Racism : condemn :: _____ : respect [1]

(vi) As per the table, which country has the maximum percentage of students in skill education? [1]

(vii) Fill in the following blank choosing the most appropriate option:

As per NEP 2020, skill exposure will begin at _____.

(a) middle and secondary school (b) primary school (c) higher school (d) senior secondary school [1]

(viii)Justify the statement:

'The NEP will create an awareness and appreciation of Indian arts and artisanship.' [1]

(ix) Based on the table, what is the gap between India's share of students in skill education and that of the USA? [1]

Passage:

(1) Reduction in green areas has caused various environmental problems. People squeezed between concrete structures are looking for various ways to meet their longing for green. One of the ways to do so is vertical gardens and green walls. Vertical gardening is a unique method of gardening where plants are grown in a vertical position or upward, rather than in the traditional method of planting them on the ground.

(2) The purpose of vertical gardens and green walls, which arises from the studies of different disciplines (landscape architects, architects, engineers, etc.), is to close the cold image of concrete and increase the visual value. In these systems, nature and structures are integrated, and thus, urban areas and the desired environment have become intertwined.

(3) Vertical garden case studies often show that, though functionality should be in the foreground, when vertical gardens are planned, they are generally made as aesthetic elements in the city's underpasses and city squares, and decorative elements in residences, without seeking functionality.

(4) Experts support that the visual quality and evaluation of landscape architecture is determined based on the satisfaction of the users. Hence, a survey questionnaire was prepared for residents of varied age groups from a metropolitan city. The table displays these responses.

Survey of 400 residents — selected responses:

Survey statement	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral
Improve quality of life in urban areas	191	138	43
Increase air quality (indoors and outdoors)	172	147	51
Have a relaxing and calming effect	161	177	44
Reduce energy and water consumption	58	47	125
Cost too much	86	107	152
Distract drivers	34	101	106
Make plants look beautiful	195	139	44

(248 words)

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

[SQP 2023-24]

(i) Complete the following analogy appropriately, based on your understanding of paragraphs 1 and 2:

We can say that the situation of people living in concrete structures is comparable with a fish living in a fishbowl, and the need for vertical gardens to the need for decorations in the fishbowl because _____. [1]

(ii) Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of paragraph 2:

The statement that urban spaces have become more closely connected with the desired natural surroundings through the incorporation of nature and structures in vertical gardens and green walls, is a _____ (fact / opinion) because it is a _____ (subjective judgement / objective detail). [1]

(iii) Justify the following, in about 40 words:

While the survey results suggest that vertical gardens may be effective in improving the quality of life in urban areas, further research and evaluation may be necessary to fully understand their effectiveness and potential drawbacks. [2]

(iv) Based on the survey results, which two concerns should a city government, looking to install vertical gardens, address? [1]

(v) In the table, the statement 'Vertical gardens increase air quality — indoors and outdoors' received the most neutral responses, with 51 respondents indicating a neutral stance. State any one inference that can be drawn from this. [1]

(vi) Select the option that correctly displays what 'intertwined' signifies. (Reference: Paragraph 2)
(1) to force something into a small space (2) to twist or be connected so as to be difficult to separate
(3) to compare two very different things (4) to build higher and higher (5) to remain unchanged
(a) (i), (iv) and (v) (b) Only (ii) (c) Only (iii) (d) (ii) and (v) [1]

(vii) In the given sentence taken from paragraph 1, select the option that correctly replaces the underlined word with its most likely antonym:

Vertical gardening is a unique method of gardening.

(a) an indefinite (b) an exclusive (c) a combined (d) a standard [1]

(viii) Infer one drawback of vertical gardening, in comparison to other solutions such as community gardens or parks. [1]

(ix) Which of the following is the main takeaway from the study mentioned in the passage?
(a) Vertical gardening has minimal impact on the environment or human well-being.
(b) Vertical gardening is a sustainable practice that can transform urban spaces into green areas.
(c) The impact of vertical gardening on the environment and human well-being has already been thoroughly explored.
(d) The study needs to include experts from horticultural firms to offer any recommendations for further research. [1]

Passage:

(1) The school canteen is more than a place to eat; it is where students test the economics of everyday life. When Greenfield Public School, Rohtak, decided to overhaul its canteen menu, the student council ran a survey of 600 students across classes 6 to 12 before recommending any change.

(2) The findings were blunt. 62% of students wanted at least one hot, fresh item every day, while only 24% said the existing cold-snacks menu met their needs. Asked what keeps them away from the canteen, 41% cited long queues, 28% said prices were too high, and 19% found the food unhygienic-looking. Only 12% had no complaint at all.

(3) Interestingly, students showed a keen sense of value. 71% said they would pay up to Rs 5 extra for a fresh item, but 86% opposed any price rise on water and fruit — essentials, as one respondent wrote, 'should stay cheap for everyone'. When offered a choice between a wider menu and faster service, 55% chose faster service — revealing that time, not variety, is the scarcer commodity in a 20-minute recess.

(4) The council presented the results with a proposal: two service counters, a daily fresh item, and a capped price on fruit and water. The school accepted all three. The canteen now serves 40% more students each day, and queue times have halved.

Survey of 600 students:

What keeps students away?	Share
Long queues	41%
High prices	28%
Unhygienic look	19%
No complaint	12%

(241 words)

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

(i) Why does the writer call the school canteen 'more than a place to eat'? (Paragraph 1) [1]

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

Assertion: The existing cold-snacks menu did not satisfy most students.

Reason: 62% of students wanted at least one hot, fresh item every day.
(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) Identify the word in the passage that tells us that the survey findings were direct and uncomplimentary. (Paragraph 2) [1]

(iv) Based on the survey table, which single complaint was the most common? [1]

(v) What does the students' opposition to any price rise on water and fruit (86%) suggest about their values? Answer in about 40 words. [2]

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

A recess of twenty minutes makes time a _____ commodity for students. [1]

(vii) Complete the sentence suitably:

The school's three changes worked because _____. [1]

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

More students preferred a wider menu over faster service. (Paragraph 3) [1]

(ix) Give one reason why the survey was conducted before the canteen was changed. [1]

3. Grammar

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Q1. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the update on a school alumnus:
[SQP 2023-24] We are delighted to share that Nishant _____ the National Science Olympiad this year. **[1]**

(a) has won (b) win (c) is winning (d) won

Q2. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the sentence from a news report:
[SQP 2024-25] The verdict is yet to come since the members of the jury _____ divided in their opinion. **[1]**

(a) is (b) are (c) was (d) been

Q3. Complete the following, by filling in the blank with the correct option:
[BoardComptt 2024] People who do not recycle items like bottles and cans _____ the world's resources. **[1]**

(a) will waste (b) have wasted (c) waste (d) are wasting

Q4. The following line has an error, which is underlined. Select the correct option from the choices given below to replace the underlined word.
[BoardComptt 2024] She may play the piano when she was only eleven. **[1]**

(a) could (b) ought to (c) must (d) should

Q5. Complete the given opinion by filling the blank with the correct option:
[SQP 2025-26] The experience of watching the movie left me _____ grateful for knowing the importance of being empathetic to others. **[1]**

(a) having felt (b) feeling (c) felt (d) feels

Q6. The given sentence has an error. Select the option that correctly identifies the error and supplies the correction:
[SQP 2023-24] The meeting was attended by all the participants, most of whom were already seated between the hall.

No.	Error	Correction
A.	attended	attend
B.	most	more
C.	between	among
D.	seated	seat

[1]

Very Short Answer (VSA)

Q7. Fill in the blank with the correct form of verb given in the brackets.
[SQP 2025-26] I'm so happy to see my plants again! They _____ (grow) so much since I last saw them. **[1]**

Q8. Read Somil's request to his mother:
[Board 2026 (2/1/1)] "Can you teach me to swim?"
Report Somil's request by completing the following sentence correctly:
Somil asked his mother _____. **[1]**

Q9. Report the doctor's statement.
[SQP 2026-27] Doctor: "You should reduce your sugar intake and exercise regularly." **[1]**

Q10. Rhea asked the following question to her colleague, Deepak.
[SQP 2024-25] *Have you finalised the magazine content to be submitted tomorrow?*
Report Rhea's question correctly. **[1]**

4. Writing Skills – Formal Letter

Long Answer (LA)

Q1. As Sakshi/Saksham Bedi of 864, Solar Apartments, Lajpat Street, Dipak Nagar, you feel that the lack of proper street lighting in several areas of your neighbourhood is a threat to safety. Residents, especially those who work late shifts or return home after dark, feel vulnerable due to poorly lit streets. Write a letter to the District Magistrate of your city area, in about 120 words, stating the problem and requesting him to take necessary action for installation of streetlights in those areas. **[5]**

[Board 2025 (2/2/1)]

Q2. You are Nirmala / Nirmal, a resident of Jhunjhunu Colony. Recently there have been a series of accidents and petty crimes in your colony. One of the reasons is poor street lighting. Write a letter to the Commissioner of the Works department, drawing attention to the urgent need to install street lights to avoid further crimes and accidents. **[5]**

[Board 2026 (2/1/1)]

Q3. As Amitha, the Vice Head Girl of Vidya Mandir, you are aware of the increasing prevalence of cyber-attacks and unauthorised exploitation of systems, networks, and technologies affecting individuals across all demographics. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily in about 120 words, stressing the urgent need to promote digital security among all age groups. Highlight the challenges posed by cyber threats and propose practical solutions to address this growing issue. **[5]**

[SQP 2025-26]

5. Writing Skills – Analytical Paragraph

Long Answer (LA)

Q1. The data given below shows how teenagers spend their daily screen time across different digital activities.

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

S. No.	Digital Activities	Percentage
1.	Social media	35
2.	Watching videos / streaming	30
3.	Gaming	20
4.	Online learning	10
5.	Others (browsing, reading news, etc.)	5

Analyse the data provided and write a paragraph analyzing how teenagers allocate their daily screen time. Focus on the activity that occupies the largest proportion of time and on other major and minor activities in descending order, and on the balance between entertainment and educational screen use. Conclude with an observation about the overall trend. **[5]**

Q2. The effects of technology on education have been profound and multifaceted, influencing both teaching and learning in various ways. The data below shows the rising enrolment in online courses over the years. Analyze the data and write an analytical paragraph, in about 120 words, about how technology has transformed teaching and learning by shifting from classrooms to digital devices. Discuss benefits such as access to information and challenges like digital divide.

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

S. No.	Year	Total number of enrolments (in millions)
1.	2017	26
2.	2018	32
3.	2019	39
4.	2020	61
5.	2021	78
6.	2022	92

[5]

Q3. The table below shows the results of a survey on the modes of transport used by students of your school to commute daily. Write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words analysing the data, comparing the shares and concluding with what the school can do to make commuting safer and greener.

Mode of transport	**Percentage of students**
School bus	40
Private car (drop/pick-up)	30
Bicycle	15
Public transport (metro/bus)	10
Walking	5

[5]

6. First Flight – Prose and Drama

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Q1. 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.

Q2. In his speech, Mandela says that the policy of apartheid created a deep and lasting wound. The word "wound" refers to [Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom] **[1]**

(a) a physical injury suffered by his people
(b) the harm caused by the policy of apartheid
(c) the wars fought in his country
(d) the loss of his family

Q3. Why was Pranjol not as excited as Rajvir about the tea gardens? [Tea from Assam] **[1]**

(a) He disliked looking at tea gardens.
(b) He had worked in tea gardens himself.
(c) He had grown up in and around tea gardens.
(d) He was bored with tea gardens.

Q4. If the diary were "a real friend", which quality would Anne expect it to have? [From the Diary of Anne Frank] **[1]**

(a) talkativeness
(b) patience
(c) curiosity
(d) ambition

Q5. Mijbil "went wild with joy" in the water. This shows that he [Mijbil the Otter] **[1]**

(a) feared water
(b) was ill and weak
(c) enjoyed water as a natural otter
(d) was bored with his bath

Q6. According to Pranjol, Assam has [Tea from Assam] **[1]**

(a) the highest mountains in the world
(b) the largest concentration of tea plantations in the world
(c) the oldest rivers in India
(d) the most rainfall in the country

Q7. After reading Lencho's letter, the postmaster [A Letter to God] **[1]**

(a) threw the letter away
(b) reported Lencho to the police
(c) collected money from his colleagues and himself
(d) sent Lencho a letter of advice

Q8. Mandela's statement that he is "prepared to die" for his ideal shows that he is [Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom] **[1]**

(a) fearful of death
(b) committed to his ideal
(c) indifferent to politics
(d) eager to leave his country

Q9. Kisa Gotami was asked by the Buddha to bring a mustard seed from [The Sermon at Benares] **[1]**

(a) a house where a loved one had died
(b) a house where no one had ever died
(c) the Buddha's own garden
(d) the market

Q10. Which of the following was NOT true of Mijbil during the first twenty-four hours? [Mijbil the Otter] **[1]**

(a) He was neither hostile nor friendly.
(b) He slept on the floor as far from the bed as possible.
(c) He came on to the author's bed on the first night.
(d) He was aloof and indifferent.

Assertion–Reason

Q11. **Assertion (A):** Kisa Gotami came to accept her son's death.
Reason (R): The Buddha made her realise that death is common to all mortals. [The Sermon at Benares] **[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):** Maxwell found Mijbil a playful and lively companion.
Reason (R): Mijbil took a keen interest in his surroundings and loved the water. [Mijbil the Otter] **[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):** Rajvir cried out excitedly when he saw the tea garden.
Reason (R): He had been reading as much as he could about tea and its legends. [Tea from Assam] **[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 is Lomov pleading for? [The Proposal] **[1]**

Q15. Why did Lencho write a letter to God after the hailstorm? [A Letter to God] **[2]**

Q16. Why does the narrator say, "I was safe!" when he came out of the clouds? [The Black Aeroplane] **[2]**

Q17. Why did Anne Frank finally decide to write in her diary? [From the Diary of Anne Frank] **[2]**

Short Answer (SA)

Q18. Bread plays a pivotal role in Goan culture and tradition. Support the statement with evidence from the text. [A Baker from Goa] **[3]**

Q19. Explain how the description of the devastation caused by the hailstorm reflects the sadness within Lencho. [A Letter to God] **[3]**

Q20. Why did Kisa Gotami, despite her desperate efforts to find a solution for her grief, ultimately become weary and hopeless? [The Sermon at Benares] **[3]**

Q21. Why has the writer included the legends about tea's origin, the Chinese emperor's story and Bodhidharma's tale, in the narrative? [Tea from Assam] **[3]**

Q22. Coorg is known as "the land of rolling hills". Describe its picturesque beauty and biodiversity. [Coorg] **[3]**

Q23. Rajvir has been reading about tea before his visit. How does this reading shape his experience of Assam? [Tea from Assam] **[3]**

Long Answer (LA)

Q24. Compare the two stories, "A Letter to God" and "The Black Aeroplane" from "Stories About Flying". Examine how both these stories illustrate that help can come in unexpected forms. (100–120 words) [The Black Aeroplane] **[6]**

Q25. "The story, 'Mijbil the Otter', has it all — emotions, humour, surprising incidents and the freshness of a new and unique type of story." Explain how Maxwell has highlighted these. (100–120 words) [Mijbil the Otter] **[6]**

Q26. Self-doubt and fear often act as barriers to success. On the other hand, curiosity leads to learning new things. Justify the statement citing instances from *His First Flight*. (100–120 words) [His First Flight] **[6]**

Case Study

Extract: It was a new bus, its outside painted a gleaming white with some green stripes along the sides. Inside, the overhead bars shone like silver. Directly in front of Valli, above the windshield, there was a beautiful clock. The seats were soft and luxurious. Valli devoured everything with her eyes. But when she started to look outside, she found her view cut off by a canvas blind that covered the lower part of her window. So she stood up on the seat and peered over the blind. *(Madam Rides the Bus)*

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

[Board 2026 (2/4/1) (a)]

(i) Valli found her view cut off by a canvas _____ that covered the lower part of her window. [1]

(ii) Valli stood up on the seat and peered over the blind in order to:
(a) see the driver
(b) see the outside view clearly
(c) hide from the passengers
(d) rest [1]

(iii) Inside the bus, the overhead bars shone like _____ (one word). [1]

(iv) What do Valli's actions reveal about her eagerness? Answer in about 40 words. [2]

Extract: He just felt a bit dizzy. Then he flapped his wings once and he soared upwards. ''Ga, ga, ga, Ga, ga, ga, Gaw-col-ah,'' his mother swooped past him, her wings making a loud noise. He answered her with another scream. Then his father flew over him screaming. He saw his two brothers and his sister flying around him curvetting and banking and soaring and diving. Then he completely forgot that he had not always been able to fly, and commended himself to dive and soar and curve, shrieking shrilly. *(His First Flight)*

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

[SQP 2025-26]

(i) The seagull answered his mother with another _____. [1]

(ii) After flapping his wings once, the seagull soared upwards. This shows that he:
(a) had mastered flying completely
(b) had taken a first step of confidence
(c) was about to fall
(d) was too tired to fly [1]

(iii) The seagull "completely forgot that he had not always been able to fly." This shows that he now has a sense of _____ (one word). [1]

(iv) What does the behaviour of the seagull's family suggest about the role of family in his first flight? Answer in about 40 words. [2]

Extract: "Hey, a tea garden!" Rajvir cried excitedly. Pranjol, who had been born and brought up on a plantation, didn't share Rajvir's excitement. "Oh, this is tea country now," he said. "Assam has the largest concentration of plantations in the world. You will see enough gardens to last you a lifetime!" "I have been reading as much as I could about tea," Rajvir said. "No one really knows who discovered tea but there are many legends." *(Tea from Assam)*

Q29. Answer the following questions based on the extract above. **[5]**

[SQP 2022-23 (1.A)]

(i) Pranjol had been born and brought up on a _____. [1]

(ii) The word "excitedly" in "Rajvir cried excitedly" means:
(a) with eagerness
(b) with fear
(c) with anger

(d) with sorrow [1]

(iii) Rajvir says that no one really knows who discovered tea, but there are many _____. [1]

(iv) What does Pranjol's response reveal about his relationship with tea gardens? Answer in about 40 words. [2]

7. First Flight – Poetry

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Q1. 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

Q2. 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

Q3. The tone of the speaker in the exclamation 'Stop that sulking at once, Amanda!' is [Amanda!] **[1]**

(a) uncertain
(b) exasperated and aggressive
(c) sympathetic and gentle
(d) amused and playful

Q4. What does the speaker mean by the line 'And saved some part / Of a day I had rued'? [Dust of Snow] **[1]**

(a) He regretted wasting the whole day.
(b) He was relieved that the rest of the day need not be wasted in sorrow.
(c) He had planned the day carefully.
(d) He wished the day would end quickly.

Q5. Which option correctly replaces the underlined phrase in the given line from *Fire and Ice*? "I hold with those who favour fire." [Fire and Ice] **[1]**

(a) am as experienced as
(b) strongly disagree with
(c) have the same opinion as
(d) habitually avoid

Q6. The poet has presented the crow and the hemlock tree, conventionally associated with darkness and death, as agents of [Dust of Snow] **[1]**

(a) fear and suspicion
(b) mystery and magic
(c) positive change and upliftment
(d) gloom and depression

Q7. The central idea of the poem '*Fog*' is [Fog] **[1]**

(a) the dangers of city life
(b) the quiet, transient and mysterious nature of natural phenomena
(c) the pollution of harbours
(d) the pleasures of seaside life

Q8. In the poem *A Tiger in the Zoo*, the tiger's 'quiet rage' indicates that its anger is [A Tiger in the Zoo] **[1]**

(a) forgotten.
(b) provoked and held within.
(c) expressed openly to the visitors.
(d) directed at the keeper.

Q9. The comparison of the fog with a cat in '*Fog*' is an example of [Fog] **[1]**

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

Assertion–Reason

Q10. **Assertion (A):** A small, seemingly insignificant incident in nature can alter a person's entire outlook for the day.
Reason (R): The falling of the dust of snow lifted the poet's mood and saved the rest of his day from being wasted in regret. [Dust of Snow] **[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):** In '*Fog*', the fog is described as if it were a living creature.
Reason (R): Sandburg uses animal imagery and actions such as 'sits' and 'silent haunches' to give the fog a

lively personality. [Fog] **[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):** The poet presents the trees as if they are moving out of the house on their own.
Reason (R): Personification gives the trees human-like actions such as stumbling and shuffling, so their departure seems purposeful. [The Trees] **[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. What do the 'crow' and the 'hemlock tree' conventionally symbolise? How does Frost use them differently? [Dust of Snow] **[2]**

Q14. What does the phrase 'From what I've tasted of desire' reveal about the speaker? [Fire and Ice] **[2]**

Q15. What is the contribution of the extended metaphor in the poem '*Fog*'? [Fog] **[2]**

Short Answer (SA)

Q16. How does the short structure of the poem '*Dust of Snow*' enhance its message about emotional renewal? Support your answer briefly. [Dust of Snow] **[3]**

Q17. In what ways does the contrast between the tiger's natural habitat and its confinement in a concrete cell enhance the poem's exploration of captivity and its consequences for wild animals? Answer in about 40–50 words. [A Tiger in the Zoo] **[3]**

Q18. In the poem '*Fire and Ice*', how does the intense human emotion symbolised by fire lead to the destruction of the world? [Fire and Ice] **[3]**

Q19. '*Dust of Snow*' presents the polar opposites black and white in a colour palette. Justify that 'black' and 'white' signify something deeper than the superficial meaning in the poem. [Dust of Snow] **[3]**

Q20. The speaker 'scarcely mention[s] the departure of the forest' in her letters even as the trees leave her house. What does this indifference reveal about human attitudes towards nature? Answer in about 40–50 words. [The Trees] **[3]**

Long Answer (LA)

Q21. What distinguishes the portrayal of the tiger in '*A Tiger in the Zoo*' from the depiction of the tiger in '*How to Tell Wild Animals*'? Answer in 100–120 words. [A Tiger in the Zoo; How to Tell Wild Animals] **[6]**

Q22. How does the contrast between the pilot's fear in '*The Black Aeroplane*' and Custard's initial cowardice in '*The Tale of Custard the Dragon*' highlight that courage can be found in the most unexpected characters when circumstances demand it? Discuss with reference to the two. Answer in 100–120 words. [Two Stories About Flying; The Tale of Custard the Dragon] **[6]**

Q23. The protagonist in '*The Ball Poem*' and the young seagull in '*His First Flight*' face challenges. Discuss with reference to the two texts. Answer in 100–120 words. [The Ball Poem; His First Flight] **[6]**

Case Study

Extract: The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree
Has given my heart
A change of mood *(Dust of Snow)*

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

[Board 2025 (2/3/1)]

(i) Fill the blank to complete the sentence.
Shaking down of dust of snow gave the speaker a change of heart by _____. [1]

(ii) How does the interaction between the natural elements (crow, snow, hemlock tree) contribute to the speaker's emotional transformation in the poem? Answer in about 40 words. [2]

(iii) 'Dust of snow' is referred to as:
(a) mist
(b) dust of branches
(c) snow residue
(d) snowflakes [1]

(iv) The crow and the hemlock tree represent _____.
1. sorrow 2. elation 3. hope 4. anxiety 5. enthusiasm
(a) 1 only (b) 2, 3 and 5 (c) 4 only (d) 1, 4 and 5 [1]

Extract: What, what is the boy now who has lost his ball.
What, what is he to do.
I saw it go
Merrily bouncing, down the street and then Merrily over – there it is in the water!
No use to say 'O there are other balls'. *(The Ball Poem)*

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

[Board 2026 (2/5/1)]

(i) What does the repetition of the word 'merrily' suggest in the context of the ball's movement?
(a) the ball's cheerful, carefree bounce contrasts sharply with the boy's sudden loss
(b) the ball is moving slowly and reluctantly
(c) the ball is returning to the boy
(d) the boy is laughing at the ball [1]

(ii) The poet uses the ball as a symbol of the boy's _____. (childhood / adventure) [1]

(iii) The line 'No use to say 'O there are other balls'' conveys that
(a) the boy can easily replace the lost ball
(b) the loss of one thing cannot be made up by another
(c) the ball was not worth keeping
(d) the boy should stop crying and ignore it [1]

(iv) How does this moment contrast the mood of the poem before and after the ball falls into the water? Answer in about 40 words. [2]

Extract: The leaves strain toward the glass
small twigs stiff with exertion
long-cramped boughs shuffling under the roof
like newly discharged patients
half-dazed, moving

to the clinic doors. *(The Trees)*

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

[Board 2025 (2/2/1)]

(i) The boughs are compared to newly discharged patients because they appear _____ and unsteady. [1]

(ii) The word 'exertion' in 'small twigs stiff with exertion' suggests that the twigs are:
(a) relaxed
(b) making a great effort
(c) asleep
(d) decaying [1]

(iii) Name the figure of speech in the line 'like newly discharged patients'. [1]

(iv) How does the comparison between the boughs and newly discharged patients contribute to the theme of the poem? Answer in about 40 words. [2]

8. Footprints Without Feet

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Q1. 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

Q2. 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

Q3. At the wedding, Bholi's hand "struck out like a streak of lightning" when [Bholi] **[1]**

(a) the veil slipped from her face
(b) Bishamber raised the garland to place it round her neck
(c) her father counted out the five thousand rupees
(d) the priest asked her to step forward

Q4. Griffin became a homeless wanderer without clothes or money because [Footprints Without Feet] **[1]**

(a) his landlord had thrown him out
(b) he had to remove his clothes to escape unseen after setting fire to his landlord's house
(c) the police had seized his property
(d) he had donated everything to science

Q5. The book *The Travels of Monarch X* was a turning point in Ebright's life because [The Making of a Scientist] **[1]**

(a) it won him a prize in a competition
(b) it opened the world of science to him through butterfly migration and tagging
(c) it taught him how to write articles
(d) it introduced him to Dr Urquhart's students

Q6. At the end of the story, the teacher's eyes showed "the light of a deep satisfaction that an artist feels when contemplating the completion of her masterpiece." The "masterpiece" is [Bholi] **[1]**

(a) the school she built
(b) Bholi herself — confident, educated and self-respecting
(c) Bholi's wedding dress
(d) the painting in the classroom

Q7. Noodle's habit of beginning every correction with "Forgive me, your Brilliance" or "an insignificant bit of data floated into my mind" shows that he [The Book that Saved the Earth] **[1]**

(a) is genuinely confused
(b) has learned to survive under a vain, arrogant ruler by offering ideas without threatening the ruler's ego
(c) does not understand the reports
(d) is planning to overthrow Think-Tank

Q8. What does the exclamation, "This is a triumph of surgery!", by Mrs Pumphrey, mean? [A Triumph of Surgery] **[1]**

(a) The surgery was successful.
(b) The mistress could take back her pet.
(c) The doctor was a great veterinarian.
(d) The planned venture was fruitful.

Q9. The play ends with Think-Tank being replaced by "the wise and wonderful Noodle". This ending is ironic because [The Book that Saved the Earth] **[1]**

(a) Noodle was the least intelligent Martian
(b) the humble apprentice who quietly fed Think-Tank every idea turns out to be the wiser ruler
(c) Think-Tank conquered Earth after all
(d) the Earthlings never learnt to read

Assertion–Reason

Q10. **Assertion (A):** Griffin's discovery of invisibility could have revolutionised science.
Reason (R): He misused it for revenge, theft and violence, so his brilliance brought him ruin instead. [Footprints Without Feet] **[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):** Ausable was able to outwit Max, who was armed with an automatic pistol.
Reason (R): Ausable had pre-planned the balcony story, showing that intelligence can defeat brute force. [The Midnight Visitor] **[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):** Bholi's refusal of Bishamber was possible only because she had been educated.
Reason (R): School gave her confidence and self-respect, and the certainty that she could earn her own living — without it she would have endured the humiliation silently. [Bholi] **[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 Griffin flee from the big London store early in the morning? [Footprints Without Feet] **[2]**

Q14. What does Noodle's salutation of Think-Tank tell us about the position Think-Tank held on Mars? [The Book that Saved the Earth] **[2]**

Q15. Why was it important for Mrs Pumphrey to be a little cruel in order to be kind towards Tricki? [A Triumph of Surgery] **[2]**

Short Answer (SA)

Q16. Why did Richard Ebright raise a flock of butterflies? What did he do with them? [The Making of a Scientist] **[3]**

Q17. Presence of mind is the secret weapon of a secret agent. Justify this statement in the context of *The Midnight Visitor*. [The Midnight Visitor] **[3]**

Q18. How did a book of nursery rhymes save the Earth from a Martian invasion? [The Book that Saved the Earth] **[3]**

Q19. Griffin's brilliance as a man of science fades before his darker traits. Comment. [Footprints Without Feet] **[3]**

Q20. How does *The Book that Saved the Earth* include elements of satirical science fiction? [The Book that Saved the Earth] **[3]**

Long Answer (LA)

Q21. How did the lady in red manage to outsmart and outmaneuver the other thief, Horace Danby, by robbing the safe without leaving a single fingerprint? [A Question of Trust] **[6]**

Q22. In *The Book that Saved the Earth*, Think-Tank rules Mars with absolute authority and arrogance, yet he makes ridiculous mistakes throughout the play. Evaluate how this impacts his leadership. [The Book that Saved the Earth] **[6]**

Q23. In the story *The Midnight Visitor*, the "balcony" functions as the story's central plot device, yet it never physically exists. Discuss what the balcony symbolises in the story. [The Midnight Visitor] **[6]**

Case Study

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)*

Q24. 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]

Extract: He was silent, stupefied, in dismay, at the sight of his wife weeping. He stammered, "What is the matter? What is the matter?"
By a violent effort, she had controlled her vexation and responded in a calm voice, wiping her moist cheeks, "Nothing. Only I have no dress and consequently I cannot go to this affair. Give your card to some colleague whose wife is better fitted out than I."
He was grieved, but answered, "Let us see, Matilda. How much would a suitable costume cost, something that would serve for their occasions, something very simple?"
She reflected for some seconds thinking of a sum that could ask for without bringing with it an immediate refusal and a frightened exclamation from the economical clerk. *(The Necklace)*

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

[Board 2025 (2/4/1), sub-parts adapted]

(i) Matilda's advice to "give your card to some colleague whose wife is better fitted out" is said with a mixture of _____. [1]

(ii) Matilda's calm voice, despite her weeping, shows that:
(a) she has overcome her disappointment
(b) she is controlling herself to make her displeasure felt
(c) she no longer wants to go to the ball
(d) she is indifferent to the invitation [1]

(iii) The word "stupefied" in the first line means the same as:
(a) angry (b) shocked (c) amused (d) bored [1]

(iv) What does the phrase "the economical clerk" tell us about the Loisels' finances and the husband's nature? Answer in about 40 words. [2]

Extract: Sweat broke out over her whole body. Would her stammering tongue again disgrace her? For the sake of this kind woman, however, she decided to make an effort. She had such a soothing voice; she would not laugh at her.
"Bh-Bh-Bho-Bho-," she began to stammer.
"Well done, well done," the teacher encouraged her. "Come on, now — the full name?"
"Bh-Bh-Bho-Bholi." At last she was able to see it and felt relieved as if it was a great achievement.
"Well done." The teacher patted her affectionately and said, "Put the fear out of your heart and you will be able to speak like everyone else."

Bholi looked up as if to ask, "Really?" *(Bholi)*

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

[SQP 2026-27, sub-parts adapted to fixed shape]

(i) Bholi shows some physical symptoms like sweat breaking out over her body and stammering. This shows she is _____. [1]

(ii) "Would her stammering tongue again disgrace her?" The author has used this question as a narrative technique, with the aim of _____.
(a) convincing readers to judge Bholi
(b) showcasing Bholi's inabilities
(c) giving readers a peek into Bholi's thoughts
(d) showing sympathy for Bholi [1]

(iii) Bholi's gesture of looking up "as if to ask, Really?" reveals a mix of _____. [1]

(iv) The teacher's statement, "Put the fear out of your heart and you will be able to speak like everyone else," suggests that Bholi's primary obstacle is psychological rather than physical. Elaborate. Answer in about 40 words. [2]

Answer Key (MCQs and Assertion–Reason)

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

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

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

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