CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

CBSE 2026-27

English Language and Literature

Subject Code: 184 | Class X

Question Bank – Set 3

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.

Contents

1. Reading Skills – Discursive Passage **3**
Case Study . . . 3

2. Reading Skills – Case-based Passage **7**
Case Study . . . 7

3. Grammar **11**
Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) . . . 11
Very Short Answer (VSA) . . . 12

4. Writing Skills – Formal Letter **13**
Long Answer (LA) . . . 13

5. Writing Skills – Analytical Paragraph **14**
Long Answer (LA) . . . 14

6. First Flight – Prose and Drama **15**
Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) . . . 15
Assertion–Reason . . . 15
Very Short Answer (VSA) . . . 16
Short Answer (SA) . . . 16
Long Answer (LA) . . . 16
Case Study . . . 17

7. First Flight – Poetry **19**
Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) . . . 19
Assertion–Reason . . . 19
Very Short Answer (VSA) . . . 20
Short Answer (SA) . . . 20
Long Answer (LA) . . . 20
Case Study . . . 20

8. Footprints Without Feet **23**
Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) . . . 23
Assertion–Reason . . . 23
Very Short Answer (VSA) . . . 24
Short Answer (SA) . . . 24
Long Answer (LA) . . . 24
Case Study . . . 24

Answer Key (MCQs and Assertion–Reason) **27**

1. Reading Skills – Discursive Passage

Case Study

Passage:

(1) With the growing focus on sustainable living, the importance of kitchen gardens in urban regions has garnered greater acknowledgement. One significance of kitchen gardens in urban areas is their role in promoting food security. Rapid urbanization has led to increased distances between food production centres and urban settlements, resulting in longer food supply chains and a decrease in the freshness and nutritional value of food.

(2) By having a kitchen garden, urban dwellers can grow their own fresh produce at home, making good use of empty tins, old utensils, and clay flower pots, ensuring a constant supply of nutritious food for themselves and their families. This activity not only saves money and time but can also provide a healthy, practical, and environmentally friendly hobby for the whole family.

(3) Not only do kitchen gardens contribute to food security, but they also play a crucial role in environmental sustainability. Traditional agricultural practices often involve the use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and intensive irrigation methods, which may have adverse effects on the environment. However, kitchen gardens promote organic farming, reducing the use of harmful chemicals and preserving soil health.

(4) In addition to fostering a sustainable environment, kitchen gardens provide numerous health benefits to urban dwellers. The availability of fresh and organic produce from the garden ensures a higher intake of essential nutrients, vitamins, and minerals, promoting better overall health and well-being.

(5) Furthermore, kitchen gardens have proven to be an effective tool for education and community development. They provide an opportunity for individuals to reconnect with nature and learn about the basics of agriculture. Besides providing fruits and vegetables, gardening provides an aesthetic and therapeutic exercise that helps relieve stress. The physical activity involved in tending to a garden helps individuals stay active, reducing the risk of obesity and related health issues.

(6) By involving children in gardening activities, they can develop an appreciation for the environment and learn essential life skills. Moreover, kitchen gardens can also serve as a platform for community engagement, fostering social interactions and promoting a sense of belonging among urban residents.

(7) Despite the numerous benefits of kitchen gardens, establishing and maintaining one in urban areas can be challenging. Limited space, lack of sunlight, and soil quality issues are common obstacles that urban gardeners face. However, innovative solutions such as vertical gardening, hydroponics, and rooftop gardens have emerged to overcome these challenges.

(8) It is imperative to provide support and resources to encourage urban gardening initiatives as this can transform urban areas into sustainable havens where residents not only live but thrive in harmony with nature. *(428 words)*

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

[Board 2025 (2/3/1)]

(i) What does the writer's use of the phrase 'kitchen gardens in urban regions have garnered greater acknowledgement' suggest about kitchen gardening today? (Paragraph 1)

(a) It has reduced inflation.

(b) It is an expensive hobby.

(c) It provides nutritious food.

(d) It does not minimize adverse effects on the environment. [1]

(ii) Complete the following with a suitable explanation:

Growing a kitchen garden is cost effective because _____. (Paragraph 2) [1]

(iii) Identify two differences between the methods adopted in traditional farming and kitchen gardens. (Paragraph 3) [2]

(iv) Substitute the underlined word with the correct word from Paragraph 4:

The local residents' *nurturing* of their surrounding flora and fauna helps to create awareness about civic responsibilities. [1]

(v) Tending to a kitchen garden has many health benefits. Explain in about 40 words. (Paragraphs 4 and 5) [2]

(vi) Select the option that best reflects the concept that kitchen gardening is an effective educational tool for children. (Paragraph 5)
(a) It contributes to effective community development.
(b) It helps develop sensitivity and appreciation for nature. [1]

(vii) What hurdles do kitchen gardeners face? Mention any two. (Paragraph 7) [1]

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

Kitchen gardening should be practised by everyone living in the cities. [1]

Passage:

(1) Cinnamon is a spice obtained from the inner bark of several tree species from the genus Cinnamomum. Cinnamon is made by cutting the stems of cinnamon trees. The inner bark is then extracted and the woody parts removed. When it dries, it forms strips that curl into rolls, called cinnamon sticks. These sticks can be ground to form cinnamon powder. The spice, consisting of the dried inner bark, is brown in colour and has a delicately fragrant aroma and a warm sweet flavour. The distinct aroma and flavour of cinnamon derive from its essential oil and principal component, cinnamaldehyde, as well as numerous other constituents including eugenol.

(2) There are two main types of cinnamon: Cassia and Ceylon. The two have different nutritional profiles. Ceylon cinnamon comes from Sri Lanka. Some people call it 'true cinnamon'. Cassia cinnamon, on the other hand, originates from southern China. Cassia is cheaper than Ceylon cinnamon. Cassia cinnamon has a robust, rich, somewhat bitter flavour while Ceylon is sweeter and lighter in flavour.

(3) Cinnamon was once more valuable than gold. In Egypt it was sought for embalming and religious practices. In medieval Europe it was used for religious rites and as a flavouring agent. Later it was the most profitable spice in the Dutch East India Company trade.

(4) Cinnamon is widely used as an aromatic condiment and flavouring additive in a wide variety of cuisines, sweet and savoury dishes, breakfast cereals, snack foods, bagels, teas, hot chocolate and traditional foods.

(5) Cinnamon is a spice that has been prized for its medicinal properties for thousands of years. In recent years, modern science has started to confirm many of the potential health benefits associated with cinnamon. Cinnamon has antimicrobial and antifungal properties, which is why it is often found in dental-hygiene products and is sold as cinnamon supplements. It is also a good source of antioxidants, substances that inhibit the effect of free radicals (reactive atoms that can damage cells). Due to its anti-inflammatory nature, cinnamon is currently being researched for its potential to fight Alzheimer's disease and decrease symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome and colon cancer.

(6) Studies also suggest that cinnamon has anti-diabetic properties, and may offer protection from cancer and cardiovascular disease, among other conditions. However, more evidence is needed to confirm cinnamon's benefits. In the short term, consuming moderate amounts of cinnamon as a spice or as a supplement seems to be safe for most people. However, cinnamon contains coumarin. This is a natural flavouring, but it also plays a role in creating warfarin, the common blood-thinning drug. Consuming too much coumarin can lead to liver damage and affect coagulation. *(419 words)*

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

[Board 2025 (2/2/1)]

(i) Complete the sentence appropriately:

The characteristic aroma and flavour of cinnamon originate from its essential oil, primarily composed of _____. (Paragraph 1) [1]

(ii) Based on the reading of the passage, examine, in about 40 words, how cinnamon derived from the trees is made fit to be used as a spice. (Paragraph 1) [2]

(iii) Mention one point of difference between Ceylon cinnamon and Cassia cinnamon. (Paragraph 2) [1]

(iv) Complete the sentence appropriately:

The author says that cinnamon was once more valuable than gold because _____. (Paragraph 3) [1]

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

"Cinnamon is a spice that has been prized for its medicinal properties for thousands of years." (Paragraph 5) [2]

(vi) The writer's use of the phrases 'modern science has started to confirm' (Paragraph 5) and 'more evidence is needed to confirm' (Paragraph 6) suggests that the benefits of cinnamon are: (1) proven (2) scientific (3) uncertain (4) controversial (5) harmful. Select the correct option.
(a) 1 and 3 (b) 2 and 4 (c) only 3 (d) only 5 [1]

(vii) Which of the following statements about cinnamon and its health benefits is true? (Paragraph 6)
(a) Modern science has evidence to prove that cinnamon has many anti-diabetic properties, and it offers complete protection from cancer and cardiovascular disease.
(b) Cinnamon lacks antimicrobial and antifungal properties, making it unsuitable for dental hygiene products.
(c) Antioxidants found in cinnamon have no effect on free radicals in the body.
(d) Cinnamon's anti-inflammatory properties are being researched for its potential benefits in Alzheimer's disease, irritable bowel syndrome and colon cancer. [1]

(viii) Which of the following statements best describes the author's attitude towards cinnamon and its uses?
(a) Finds cinnamon to be a prized condiment which can be used in almost all food items.
(b) Believes that cinnamon should be used by everyone, everyday.
(c) Recognizes that cinnamon has many useful properties, including health benefits.
(d) Believes that cinnamon should only be used as a medicinal supplement. [1]

Passage:

(1) If you're like most kids, you may love snow. Not only can it get you out of school, but it's also fun to play with. Who doesn't love to sled and build snowmen? Snow can also be dangerous, too. You may have heard your parents talk about how difficult it can be to drive in snow. Car accidents aren't the only dangers created by snow. If you're ever skiing in the mountains, you'll want to be aware of avalanches. An avalanche is a sudden flow of snow down a slope, such as a mountain. The amount of snow in an avalanche will vary based on many things, but it can be such a huge pile that it can bury the bottom of a slope in dozens of feet of snow.

(2) Avalanches can be caused by many things. Some of them are natural. For example, new snow or rain can cause built-up snow to loosen and fall down the side of a mountain. Earthquakes and the movement of animals have also been known to cause avalanches. Artificial triggers can also cause avalanches. For example, snowmobiles, skiers, gunshots and explosives have all been known to cause avalanches. Avalanches usually occur during the winter and spring, when snowfall is greatest. As they are dangerous to any living beings in their path, avalanches have destroyed forests, roads, railroads and even entire towns.

(3) Warning signs exist that allow experts to predict — and often prevent — avalanches from occurring. When over a foot of fresh snow falls, experts know to be on the lookout for avalanches. Explosives can be used in places with massive snow build-ups to trigger smaller avalanches that don't pose a danger to persons or property. When deadly avalanches do occur, the moving snow can quickly reach over 80 miles per hour. Skiers caught in such avalanches can be buried under dozens of feet of snow. While it's possible to dig out of such avalanches, not all are able to escape.

(4) If you get tossed about by an avalanche and find yourself buried under many feet of snow, you might not have a true sense of which way is up and which way is down. Some avalanche victims have tried to dig their way out, only to find that they were upside down and digging themselves farther under the snow rather than to the top! Experts suggest that people caught in an avalanche try to 'swim' to the top of the moving snow to stay close to the surface. Once the avalanche stops, do your best to dig around you to create a space for air, so you can breathe easier. Then, do your best to figure out which way is up and dig in that direction to reach the surface and signal rescuers. *(415 words)*

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

[Board 2023 (2/1/1) — adapted to current 8-part format]

(i) Complete the sentence by choosing an appropriate option:

An avalanche can be caused by _____.
(a) new snow or rain (b) heavy winds (c) high altitude (d) global warming [1]

(ii) Comment in two sentences on the warning signs that allow experts to predict avalanches. (Paragraph 3) [1]

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

Avalanches can destroy only forests and roads, and never entire towns. (Paragraph 2) [1]

(iv) Select the option that conveys the opposite of 'massive' (Paragraph 3):
(a) tiny (b) lengthy (c) bulky (d) extensive [1]

(v) Based on your reading of paragraph 4, examine in about 40 words why some avalanche victims dig themselves deeper into the snow. [2]

(vi) The word 'deadly' in paragraph 3 most nearly means _____.
(a) likely to cause death (b) harmful (c) swift (d) enormous [1]

(vii) Which of the following is an artificial trigger of avalanches?
(a) earthquakes (b) movement of animals (c) gunshots (d) rain [1]

(viii) What should a person caught in an avalanche do once the snow stops moving? Answer in about 40 words. (Paragraph 4) [2]

2. Reading Skills – Case-based Passage

Case Study

Passage:

Rate of Internet Reach in India: 2014–2024

(1) The rate of internet reach in India rose over 52% in 2024 from about 14% in 2014. Although these figures seem relatively low, it meant that more than half of the population of 1.4 billion people had internet access that year. This also ranked the country second in the world in terms of active internet users.

(2) Internet availability and accessibility

By 2021 the number of internet connections across the country tripled in urban areas because of a higher density of population leading to an increase in the number of connections. However, despite incredibly low internet prices, internet usage in India has yet to reach its full potential. Lack of awareness about the internet in India persists, especially in rural areas and among women, driven by digital divide, infrastructure limitations, and a lack of perceived need for the internet. This hinders digital adoption, with many not knowing how to use the internet or even being aware of its existence. Targeted awareness campaigns and digital literacy programs are crucial to bridge this gap and ensure people understand and can benefit from the digital ecosystem.

(3) Digital living

Home to one of the largest bases of netizens in the world, India is abuzz with internet activities being carried out every moment of every day. From information and research to shopping and entertainment to living in smart homes, Indians have welcomed digital living with open arms.

Internet reach and connections over time:

Year	Internet reach	Urban connections (2019 = 100)
2014	14%	—
2019	33%	100
2021	46%	300
2024	52%	340

(243 words)

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

[Board 2026 (2/1/1)]

(i) What does the use of the term 'active internet users' convey?
(a) Active people who use internet
(b) Active people who use active internet
(c) People who use active internet
(d) People who use internet actively [1]

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

Assertion: India is home to one of the largest bases of netizens in the world.

Reason: Lack of awareness and a tangible gender gap lie at the heart of the matter.

(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 that indicates that internet reach is 'comparatively' low. (Paragraph 1) [1]

(iv) Based on the table, which of the following time periods illustrates the maximum internet usage?
(a) 2017 to 2020 (b) 2023 to 2025 (c) 2020 to 2023 (d) 2019 to 2022 [1]

(v) From the passage, identify one reason why there are fewer internet users among women. [1]

(vi) Fill in the blank with a suitable word given in brackets:

Infrastructure limitations (impedes/spurs) digital adoption. [1]

(vii) Complete the following with a suitable reason:

An increase in the number of connections in urban areas is possible because of _____. [1]

(viii) Which are the two ways to bridge the gap of digital unawareness? [2]

(ix) In the context of the last paragraph, how does the author justify the statement, 'Indians have welcomed digital living with open arms'? [1]

Passage:

(1) A 2023 report found that 'audio routines' have become a mainstay in people's daily lives. Unlike traditional content, audio-based experiences offer a hands-free and eyes-free experience, allowing individuals to stay entertained or absorb information outside the confines of a screen or paper book. The audiobooks market in India is also witnessing intense growth, fuelled by the rapid adoption of smartphones and a rising preference for convenient, on-the-go content consumption.

(2) A survey found that half of audiobook listeners spend between 1–4 hours per week listening to audiobooks and 33% spend 5–10 hours a week. When asked in which scenarios they're most likely to hit play on an audiobook, commute was the most popular choice. 63% said they listen to audiobooks while on the go, 54% while completing household chores and 44% while relaxing or falling asleep. 56% of the listeners generally prefer to listen to fiction over non-fiction books.

(3) 67% of audiobook listeners say they read more with audiobooks compared to books in traditional text format. When integrated into daily routines, audiobooks serve as a channel for more people to enjoy literature, accommodating those with the busiest of schedules.

(4) The audiobook format also offers a user-friendly format that enables a diverse population, including individuals with physical or neurological limitations to have access to literature. Additionally, it serves as a valuable resource for individuals with attention span difficulties, allowing them to engage with books despite the challenges of sitting down and maintaining a focus on reading.

Survey at a glance:

Listening time	**Share of listeners**
1–4 hours per week	50%
5–10 hours per week	33%
Scenario	**Share who listen while...**
on the go / commuting	63%
household chores	54%
relaxing or falling asleep	44%

(253 words)

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

[SQP 2026-27]

(i) Complete the sentence by selecting the correct option from those given in the bracket:

The word 'mainstay' as used in Paragraph 1 suggests that audiobooks have _____. (overpowered people's lives / become a support in people's lives) [1]

(ii) What does the relationship between smartphone adoption and audiobook listening suggest about consumer preferences? (Paragraph 1) [1]

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

Assertion: The most preferred scenario for listening to audiobooks is when travelling.

Reason: During travel, listeners struggle with short attention span problems.

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

(iv) Choose the correct option to complete the sentence:

All of the following are mentioned in paragraph 2 EXCEPT —
(a) 50% of audiobook listeners spend between one and four hours weekly listening to audiobooks.

(b) A little more than half of the audiobook listeners prefer fiction over non-fiction content.
(c) Approximately 30% of listeners spend less than one hour weekly listening to audiobooks.
(d) Audiobooks have made it possible for people to appreciate literature. [1]

(v) Compare the preference for fiction (56%) versus non-fiction in audiobooks. What might this suggest about listener expectations? (Paragraph 2) [2]

(vi) Complete the sentence suitably:

Audiobook adoption has worked well for people with busy lifestyles because _____. (Paragraph 3) [1]

(vii) Identify the phrase from paragraph 4 that indicates that everyone would find audiobooks easy and comfortable. [1]

(viii) A student with reading difficulties wants to complete his reading assignments in school. Why would an audiobook option be an advantage? (Paragraph 4) [1]

(ix) Suggest one reason why the title, 'Rise of Audiobooks: Transforming Reading', is a suitable title for the passage. [1]

Passage:

(1) When Riverdale's city council promised a 'bus that people actually choose', the transport department began with a question that surprised everyone: why do people NOT take the bus? A survey of 800 commuters, bus users and non-users alike, set the agenda for the next two years.

(2) The answers overturned the official guesswork. The top barrier was not fare, not frequency, but information: 47% of non-users said they did not know when the bus would arrive. Long waits came next at 33%, while only 14% found fares high. Ironically, the department had spent years subsidising fares while the real problem stood at the bus stop, unaddressed.

(3) The fix was cheap and fast: real-time arrival boards at the 40 busiest stops, a simple app, and a single-line map redesigned with... the route names displayed at eye level. Within six months, ridership rose 19%. The biggest jump came from those who had said they 'did not know when the bus would come' — most of them began riding within weeks of the boards appearing.

(4) A second lesson was harder: the bus's image. 29% of car owners called the bus 'not for people like me'. The department's response was to stop arguing and simply improve the product: cleaner buses, a flat Rs 10 fare on weekends, and drivers trained in courteous announcements. Ridership among car-owning households rose by a fifth in a year.

Why commuters avoid the bus (survey of 800):

Barrier	Share of non-users
Do not know when it arrives	47%
Long waits	33%
Fares too high	14%
'Not for people like me' (car owners)	29%

(242 words)

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

(i) Why did the survey ask non-users as well as users? (Paragraph 1) [1]

(ii) Complete the following with a phrase from paragraph 2:

Official guess	Survey finding
Fares were the main barrier	_____

[1]

(iii) What is ironic about the department's fare subsidy? (Paragraph 2) [1]

(iv) The writer says the fix was 'cheap and fast'. List the three measures it included. [1]

(v) Which group produced the biggest ridership jump, and why? Answer in about 40 words. [2]

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

The weekend flat fare was introduced to argue with car owners. (Paragraph 4) [1]

(vii) In the phrase 'not for people like me', the car owners reveal _____.
(a) a genuine fear of accidents (b) a perception of the bus as socially inferior (c) a complaint about the fare (d) ignorance of the routes [1]

(viii) How did the department respond to the bus's image problem? [1]

(ix) Give one reason why real-time arrival boards mattered more than lower fares. [1]

3. Grammar

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Q1. Select the correct option to complete the given sentence from a debate script:
[SQP 2023-24] The current approach to teaching _____ to be reviewed, for it ignores the needs of students with different learning styles. **[1]**

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

Q2. Read the dialogue between a librarian and a student.
[Board 2024 (2/1/1)] **Librarian:** Welcome back! It's good to see you, young man!
Student: Thanks! I was overloaded with assignments, so I have not visited the library this week.
Report the dialogue by completing the sentence. Select the correct option.
The librarian greeted the student warmly, expressing pleasure at his visit. The student thanked her and explained that _____ which had limited his recent visits to the library. **[1]**

(a) he had been overloaded with assignments (b) he has been overloaded with assignments (c) he was overloaded with assignments (d) he is overloaded with assignments

Q3. Read the dialogue between Amit and his sister Ananya, regarding her travel to the railway station.
[Board 2025 (2/1/1)] **Amit:** Are you sure you can manage to go to the railway station on your own?
Ananya: Oh yes! I have already booked a cab.
Select the correct option to report the above dialogue.
Amit asked Ananya _____ to go to the railway station on her own. Ananya replied in the affirmative and said that she had already booked a cab. **[1]**

(a) if she is sure she can manage (b) if she was sure she could manage (c) if she surely can manage (d) if she was sure to managing

Q4. The given question has an error. Select the option that correctly identifies the error and the correction.
[SQP 2025-26] Which kind of person does something like that?

No.	Error	Correction
A.	Which	What
B.	kind	kinds
C.	something	somethings
D.	that	this

[1]

Q5. Detect the error and supply the correction for the given newspaper report on a proposal by a Member of Advisory Board:
[Board 2026 (2/1/1)] After the meeting it was obvious that most stakeholders would not support proposals.
Select the option with the error and its correction. **[1]**

(a) this – that (b) that – the (c) the – these (d) these – this

Q6. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the line given below:
[Board 2026 (2/2/1)] I don't know what it is. It feel like an incredibly lucky day for me.

Option No.	Error	Correction
(A)	don't	doesn't
(B)	is	have
(C)	feel	feels
(D)	lucky	luckily

[1]

Very Short Answer (VSA)

Q7. Report the given question.
[MS 2022-23 (official answer)] Tariq said to Sunil, "Did you enjoy travelling by sea?" **[1]**

Q8. Read Isha's statement to her class teacher about missing school:
[SQP 2026-27] "I was absent yesterday because I had to visit the dentist for my regular check-up."
Report Isha's statement by completing the following sentence:
Isha explained that _____. **[1]**

Q9. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket for the given portion of a report:
[SQP 2023-24] The Annual Report of the school _____ (highlight) the achievements of the students in scholastic and co-scholastic domains. **[1]**

Q10. Identify and correct the error in the given line from a technical report:
[SQP 2026-27] Neither the software developers nor the project manager were aware of the compatibility issues.

Error	Correction
_____	_____

[1]

4. Writing Skills – Formal Letter

Long Answer (LA)

Q1. You are Nandan Banerjee, a concerned citizen. Write a letter to the Editor of a local daily raising concern over the open burning of hospital and domestic waste in your city. Draw attention to its serious health implications, the need for scientific waste disposal practices and public awareness. **[5]**

[SQP 2026-27]

Q2. You are Maya Nair, a concerned resident of Green View Colony, Guwahati. You feel that your colony lacks adequate recreational and community spaces for residents of all age groups. The existing facilities are insufficient. Write a letter to the Secretary of your Resident Welfare Association (RWA) in 120 words, highlighting the need for establishing a community centre in the colony explaining how it will benefit the residents. **[5]**

[SQP 2026-27]

Q3. You are Kritika/Kabir of A-24, Ashok Vihar, Delhi. You have noticed that a large number of your schoolmates are addicted to junk food which affects their health adversely. Write a letter to the editor of a local daily highlighting the harmful effects of junk food and suggesting ways to promote healthy eating habits among students. **[5]**

[BoardComptt 2025]

5. Writing Skills – Analytical Paragraph

Long Answer (LA)

Q1. Improvements in sports infrastructure with a focus on multi-purpose sustainable facilities as well as the integration of technology along with a grassroot centric approach is the key to bring Indian athletes on the world stage.

Write an analytical paragraph on the above statement in about 120 words, expressing your views on how improved infrastructure can help Indian athletes win accolades for the nation. **[5]**

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

Q2. An area is believed to be water stressed when annual water supplies drop below 1700 cubic metres per person per year. As per an analysis, we are already surviving with around 1700–1800 cubic metres per year. As our demand for water has increased drastically over the years, per capita water availability has taken a beating. Based on the given table, write an analytical paragraph, in about 120 words, analyzing the possible causes of water scarcity in the future.

[SQP 2024-25]

Year	Per capita availability (cubic metres)
1951	5177
2001	1820
2025	1340 (estimated)
2050	1140 (projected)

[5]

Q3. Read the following excerpt from a newspaper on the problem of car parking and its impact.

[Board 2024 (2/2/1) (5a)] A survey conducted on the residents showed that car parking in colonies has risen due to an increase in the number of cars per family. This has resulted in ugly incidents of road rage. Most of the families revealed that they are facing multiple issues due to this situation. There is no place for visitors to park and residents themselves park their cars haphazardly. In addition there is an increase in commercial vehicles parked outside colony gates, thus blocking exits.

Write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words, analysing the causes and effects of the parking problem and suggesting possible remedies. **[5]**

6. First Flight – Prose and Drama

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Q1. 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.

Q2. Who, according to the writer, was "our friend, companion and guide" in his childhood in Goa? [A Baker from Goa] **[1]**

(a) the teacher
(b) the baker
(c) the priest
(d) the uncle

Q3. The seagull's feeling of terror at the start changes, by the end of the extract, to [His First Flight] **[1]**

(a) indifference
(b) exhilaration and joy
(c) anger
(d) boredom

Q4. Bread was closely linked with which of the following in Goa? [A Baker from Goa] **[1]**

(a) celebrations and special occasions
(b) monsoon farming
(c) school examinations
(d) fishing trips

Q5. The legend about the origin of tea involves [Tea from Assam] **[1]**

(a) a Chinese emperor
(b) a Japanese poet
(c) an Indian king
(d) an English merchant

Q6. The narrator does not plan to let anyone read her diary, as she does not have any real _____. [From the Diary of Anne Frank] **[1]**

(a) friend
(b) incidents
(c) relative
(d) teacher

Q7. Valli's bus ride became possible mainly because of her [Madam Rides the Bus] **[1]**

(a) wealth
(b) determination
(c) father's job
(d) fear of her village

Q8. Lencho's faith in God, as shown in his letter, is best described as [A Letter to God] **[1]**

(a) blind and misplaced
(b) simple, unwavering and unshaken
(c) calculated and rational
(d) mixed with deep doubt

Q9. Anne gave her diary the nickname [From the Diary of Anne Frank] **[1]**

(a) Kitty
(b) Friend
(c) Dear Diary
(d) Mary

Q10. What destroyed Lencho's entire corn crop? [A Letter to God] **[1]**

(a) drought
(b) a flood
(c) a hailstorm
(d) a plague of locusts

Assertion–Reason

Q11. **Assertion (A):** The postmaster and his staff collected money to help Lencho.
Reason (R): The postmaster was deeply moved by Lencho's simple faith in God. [A Letter to God] **[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 baker's bread is central to Goan culture.

Reason (R): Bread is served and shared at celebrations, weddings and gatherings in Goa. [A Baker from Goa] **[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):** Mandela regards his long imprisonment as a period of reflection and growth.
Reason (R): In prison he had time to think deeply about justice, freedom and the future of his country. [Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom] **[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. Why did Anne Frank finally decide to write in her diary? [From the Diary of Anne Frank] **[2]**

Q15. Briefly bring out the contrast between the young seagull's initial attempts to fly and his first successful flight. [His First Flight] **[2]**

Q16. What is the main ideal that Mandela speaks of in the given lines? [Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom] **[1]**

Q17. What does Pranjol mean by saying that Assam has the largest concentration of plantations in the world? [Tea from Assam] **[1]**

Short Answer (SA)

Q18. Kitty was a trusted friend to Anne. Elaborate. [From the Diary of Anne Frank] **[3]**

Q19. Anne says, "Paper has more patience than people." What does this statement reveal about her loneliness? [From the Diary of Anne Frank] **[3]**

Q20. The young seagull's fear of flying and reluctance to leave his ledge contribute to the theme of independence and courage in the story. Justify. [His First Flight] **[3]**

Q21. Explain the reasons for Rajvir's excitement on seeing the plantation and Pranjol's lack of enthusiasm. [Tea from Assam] **[3]**

Q22. How does the ignorance about Mijbil as a creature in the urban environment of London reveal insights about people's perceptions of animals? [Mijbil the Otter] **[3]**

Q23. Valli was a mature girl and ahead of her age. Justify the statement with evidence from the text. [Madam Rides the Bus] **[3]**

Long Answer (LA)

Q24. Both Rajvir in "Tea from Assam" and Valli in "Madam Rides the Bus" are motivated by a strong desire to experience the world beyond their everyday life. How do their respective journeys reflect their curiosity? (100–120 words) [Tea from Assam] **[6]**

Q25. The writer calls Coorg a piece of heaven. Analyse how the writer's description makes the reader wish to visit Coorg. (100–120 words) [Coorg] **[6]**

Q26. Discuss, with examples from the text, the role of the baker in shaping the memories and experiences of the people in Goa. (100–120 words) [A Baker from Goa] **[6]**

Case Study

Extract: For the first twenty-four hours, Mijbil was neither hostile nor friendly; he was simply aloof and indifferent, choosing to sleep on the floor as far from my bed as possible. The second night Mijbil came on to my bed in the small hours and remained asleep in the crook of my knees until the servant brought tea in the morning, and during the day he began to lose his apathy and take a keen, much too keen, interest in his surroundings. I made a body-belt for him and took him on a lead to the bathroom, where for half an hour he went wild with joy in the water. *(Mijbil the Otter)*

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

[Board 2024 (2/4/1)]

(i) Mijbil was neither hostile nor _____ for the first twenty-four hours. [1]

(ii) Mijbil slept on the floor as far from the bed as possible. This shows that he was:
(a) aloof and uninterested in the author
(b) ill
(c) hungry
(d) looking for a bath [1]

(iii) On the second night Mijbil remained asleep in the crook of the author's _____. [1]

(iv) What does Mijbil's behaviour in the bathroom reveal about his nature? Answer in about 40 words. [2]

Extract: As ripe fruits are in danger of falling early, so mortals when born are always in danger of death. Not from weeping nor from grieving will anyone obtain peace of mind; on the contrary his pain will be greater and his body will suffer. *(The Sermon at Benares)*

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

[Board 2023 (2/4/1) and BoardComptt 2024 (2/S/1) (quoted lines); extract short, see lead notes]

(i) As ripe fruits are in danger of falling early, mortals are always in danger of _____. [1]

(ii) According to the Buddha, weeping and grieving will make the pain:
(a) lesser
(b) greater
(c) disappear
(d) shorter [1]

(iii) The Buddha says that by grieving one's body will _____. [1]

(iv) What lesson about life does the Buddha's preaching convey? Answer in about 40 words. [2]

Extract: The baker or bread-seller of those days had a peculiar dress known as the kabai. It was a single piece long frock reaching down to the knees. In our childhood we saw bakers wearing shirt and trousers which were shorter than full-length ones and longer than half pants. Even today, anyone who wears a half pant which reaches just below the knees invites the comment that he is dressed like a pader! *(A Baker from Goa)*

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

[SQP 2020-21 (B)]

(i) The kabai was a single piece long _____ reaching down to the knees. [1]

(ii) Anyone who wears a half pant that reaches just below the knees is dressed like a:
(a) pader
(b) baker
(c) farmer
(d) fisherman [1]

(iii) Bakers' trousers in childhood were shorter than full-length ones and longer than _____. [1]

(iv) What does the writer's comparison of clothes reveal about changing times in Goa? Answer in about 40

words. [2]

7. First Flight – Poetry

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Q1. 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.

Q2. The comparison of the fog with a cat in '*Fog*' is an example of [Fog] **[1]**

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

Q3. Amanda's tone while imagining herself as an orphan is [Amanda!] **[1]**

(a) excited and joyful
(b) fearful and anxious
(c) sad and tearful
(d) angry and defiant

Q4. The speaker suggests that the tiger should be 'snarling around houses at the jungle's edge'. This implies that the tiger's natural behaviour is [A Tiger in the Zoo] **[1]**

(a) to live quietly in a cage
(b) to be wild, free and dangerous in its own habitat
(c) to stay indoors with humans
(d) to be tame and gentle

Q5. According to the poem, which feature helps a reader identify the Bengal Tiger? [How to Tell Wild Animals] **[1]**

(a) black stripes on a yellow ground
(b) a long curled tail
(c) white spots on a grey coat
(d) blue and green patches

Q6. In the lines 'doors open to the veranda' and 'a sky still open', the word 'open' is used with two different meanings. Choose the option that correctly pairs these meanings. [The Trees] **[1]**

(a) entry point – vastness
(b) unlocked – frank
(c) closed – obstructed
(d) finished – ended

Q7. The lines 'Belinda paled, and she cried Help! Help!' create an atmosphere of [The Tale of Custard the Dragon] **[1]**

(a) urgency and alarm
(b) calm and peace
(c) quiet reflection
(d) boredom and indifference

Q8. What is the mood or atmosphere conveyed by the imagery in the passage 'Listen. The glass is breaking. The trees are stumbling forward into the night'? [The Trees] **[1]**

(a) calm and tranquil
(b) eerie and foreboding
(c) joyful and celebratory
(d) melancholic and traumatic

Q9. The length of the tiger's cage highlights the _____ in which the tiger is confined. [A Tiger in the Zoo] **[1]**

(a) vast space
(b) limited space
(c) free space
(d) open jungle

Assertion–Reason

Q10. **Assertion (A):** The speaker mocks the idea that youthful love depends on outward beauty.
Reason (R): He suggests that Anne could dye her hair to attract young men, which shows how superficial their affection is. [For Anne Gregory] **[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):** Wells presents dangerous wild animals in a comic manner in '*How to Tell Wild Animals*'.
Reason (R): Humour and exaggeration make the advice memorable while teaching the reader to recognise wild animals. [How to Tell Wild Animals] **[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 crow and the hemlock tree are usually considered inauspicious and unlucky.
Reason (R): The poet uses them to bring about a positive change in his mood. [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.

Very Short Answer (VSA)

Q13. Complete the sentence suitably and explain briefly: 'Money is external' implies that the boy _____. [The Ball Poem] **[2]**

Q14. What lesson does the poet convey about nature through '*How to Tell Wild Animals*'? [How to Tell Wild Animals] **[2]**

Q15. A ballad includes the telling of a tale as well as a surprise ending. Using evidence from the poem, explain how these features are included in '*The Tale of Custard the Dragon*'. [The Tale of Custard the Dragon] **[2]**

Short Answer (SA)

Q16. What happens to the house when the trees move out of it? Comment. Answer in about 40–50 words. [The Trees] **[3]**

Q17. Is it ethical to enclose wild animals within cages? Discuss with reference to the poem '*A Tiger in the Zoo*'. Answer in about 40–50 words. [A Tiger in the Zoo] **[3]**

Q18. Explain why Amanda wants to be an orphan. Refer to the given lines. Answer in about 40–50 words. [Amanda!] **[3]**

Q19. How does the poem '*The Tale of Custard the Dragon*' differ from the traditional ballad? Answer in about 40–50 words. [The Tale of Custard the Dragon] **[3]**

Q20. The religious man's perspective in '*For Anne Gregory*' reinforces the concept of divine love. Illustrate. Answer in about 40–50 words. [For Anne Gregory] **[3]**

Long Answer (LA)

Q21. The idea of beauty is a one-dimensional cultural conception or one that has been created by human beings themselves. Comment on the statement with reference to the conventional ideas of beauty vis-a-vis the poet's central idea in '*For Anne Gregory*'. Answer in 100–120 words. [For Anne Gregory] **[6]**

Q22. Examine the role of Nature in the poems '*Dust of Snow*' and '*Fog*'. Answer in 100–120 words. [Fog; Dust of Snow] **[6]**

Q23. '*Fire and Ice*' is short, yet its brevity strengthens its impact. Analyse how Frost's economy of language and tone of understatement make the poem a powerful comment on human self-destructiveness. [Fire and Ice] **[6]**

Case Study

Extract: He stalks in his vivid stripes
The few steps of his cage,
On pads of velvet quiet,
In his quiet rage.
He should be lurking in shadow,

Sliding through long grass *(A Tiger in the Zoo)*

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

[Board 2025 (2/1/1), SQP 2024-25]

(i) The tiger's stalking on 'pads of velvet' suggests a movement that is _____. [1]

(ii) The phrase 'his quiet rage' suggests that the tiger's anger is:
(a) openly expressed
(b) held back and suppressed
(c) directed at the visitors
(d) forgotten [1]

(iii) Which word in the extract shows the restricted space in which the tiger is confined? [1]

(iv) Explain how the words 'vivid stripes' and 'quiet rage' together reveal the tension between the tiger's wild nature and its captivity. Answer in about 40 words. [2]

Extract: The fog comes
on little cat feet.
It sits looking
over harbour and city
on silent haunches
and then moves on. *(Fog)*

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

[Board 2026 (2/3/1), SQP 2025-26]

(i) The fog is compared to a cat because it:
(a) is loud and aggressive
(b) moves silently and stealthily
(c) is cold and harmful
(d) destroys everything in its path [1]

(ii) The phrase 'on silent haunches' suggests that the fog is _____ and watchful. [1]

(iii) The fog 'sits looking over harbour and city' suggests that the fog is:
(a) hiding from people
(b) observing and overseeing the city
(c) destroying the city
(d) moving very fast [1]

(iv) How does the line 'and then moves on' reflect the transient nature of the fog? Answer in about 40 words. [2]

Extract: I heard an old religious man
But yesternight declare
That he had found a text to prove
That only God, my dear,
Could love you for yourself alone
And not your yellow hair. *(For Anne Gregory)*

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

[Board 2025 (2/1/1)]

(i) The speaker addresses the person he is speaking to as 'my dear' because _____. [1]

(ii) The phrase 'your yellow hair' stands for:
(a) physical beauty by which people judge a person
(b) wisdom gained with age
(c) inherited wealth

(d) religious devotion [1]

(iii) What did the old religious man declare, according to the speaker? [1]

(iv) Explain, in about 40 words, the kind of love that the religious man's text says is valued in the poem. [2]

8. Footprints Without Feet

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Q1. 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.

Q2. 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

Q3. Bholi's parents agreed to send her to school mainly because [Bholi] **[1]**

(a) they believed in education for girls
(b) the Tehsildar's order had to be obeyed, and she was the least likely to be married anyway
(c) her sisters insisted on it
(d) the school was close to their house

Q4. When Matilda met Mme Forestier on the Champs-Elysees after ten years, Matilda [The Necklace] **[1]**

(a) hid from her in shame
(b) told her the whole truth, proud that the debt was paid
(c) returned the necklace and apologised
(d) pretended not to recognise her

Q5. Mr Weiherer said Ebright was competitive "but not in a bad sense" because Ebright [The Making of a Scientist] **[1]**

(a) competed only against himself and wanted to do the best job he could
(b) never entered competitions
(c) competed to win prizes at any cost
(d) hated losing and blamed the judges

Q6. Fowler felt "let down" at first because Ausable [The Midnight Visitor] **[1]**

(a) refused to meet him
(b) did not match the romantic image of a secret agent
(c) had no important papers
(d) laughed at his writing

Q7. The young lady in red was able to fool Horace mainly because [A Question of Trust] **[1]**

(a) she looked exactly like the lady of the house
(b) Horace was too charmed and too afraid of prison to think clearly
(c) she threatened him with a gun
(d) she knew the real owners of the house

Q8. Matilda threw the invitation card on the table "spitefully" because [The Necklace] **[1]**

(a) she disliked the Minister
(b) she had nothing suitable to wear to such a party
(c) the party was not select enough
(d) her husband had accepted without asking her

Q9. The wet fifty-rupee note at the end of the story is a signal that [The Thief's Story] **[1]**

(a) Anil had found the theft but said nothing
(b) Hari had left the money out carelessly
(c) Anil had paid Hari for his month's work
(d) the note was counterfeit

Assertion–Reason

Q10. **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.

Q11. **Assertion (A):** Horace Danby considered himself an honest man despite robbing one safe every year.

Reason (R): He stole only from the rich, took just enough for the year, and hated the thought of prison, so he saw his crime as controlled and "reasonable". [A Question of Trust] **[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): Mr Herriot took a "firm line" and insisted that Tricki be hospitalised, even though Mrs Pumphrey almost swooned.
Reason (R): He genuinely cared for Tricki and knew that separation from his mistress's overindulgence was necessary for the dog's recovery. [A Triumph of Surgery] **[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 was it important for Mrs Pumphrey to be a little cruel in order to be kind towards Tricki? [A Triumph of Surgery] **[2]**

Q14. How does the lost necklace change the course of the Loisels' life? [The Necklace] **[2]**

Q15. Why did Hari Singh think that Anil's job was "queer"? [The Thief's Story] **[2]**

Short Answer (SA)

Q16. How did Mrs Pumphrey treat Tricki? How did her treatment affect the dog? [A Triumph of Surgery] **[3]**

Q17. Why does Horace take off his gloves to give the young lady his lighter? What does this action tell us about his state of mind at that crucial moment? [A Question of Trust] **[3]**

Q18. Education is the tool that transforms Bholi from a stammering simpleton into a confident, self-respecting young woman. Elaborate. [Bholi] **[3]**

Q19. What role did Ebright's mother play in his growth as a scientist? [The Making of a Scientist] **[3]**

Q20. The humour in the play arises from the Martians' misunderstandings. How do these misunderstandings comment on the way people perceive what they do not know? [The Book that Saved the Earth] **[3]**

Long Answer (LA)

Q21. Imagine you are Mme Loisel. Write a diary entry expressing the mixture of relief and grief you felt when you learned that the necklace was a fake, after ten years of hardship. [The Necklace] **[6]**

Q22. Evaluate how Griffin's character is shaped by a combination of personal ambition, the unintended consequences of his scientific pursuits, and the reactions of the society he faces. [Footprints Without Feet] **[6]**

Q23. Trace the journey of Richard Ebright from a curious child with a butterfly collection to a young man who startled the scientific world. [The Making of a Scientist] **[6]**

Case Study

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)*

Q24. 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]

Extract: Tricki was tottering along in his little tweed coat.... He struggled on, drooping in his harness. I thought it wouldn't be long before I heard from Mrs. Pumphrey.
The expected call came within a few days. Mrs. Pumphrey was distraught. Tricki would eat nothing. Refused even his favourite dishes; and besides, he had bouts of vomiting. He spent all his time lying on a rug, panting. Didn't want to go for walks, didn't want to do anything.
I had made my plans in advance. The only way was to get Tricki out of the house for a period. I suggested that he be hospitalized for about a fortnight to be kept under observation.
The poor lady almost swooned. She was sure he would pine and die if he did not see her every day. But I took a firm line. Tricki was very ill and this was the only way to save him. *(A Triumph of Surgery)*

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

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

(i) The narrator says, "I had made my plans in advance." This shows that he _____. [1]

(ii) The word 'swooned' in the extract means the same as:
(a) screamed loudly (b) fainted (c) protested (d) burst into tears [1]

(iii) Mrs. Pumphrey's words about Tricki pining and dying reveal _____ about her character. [1]

(iv) Why did the narrator think that hospitalising Tricki was the only way to save him? Answer in about 40 words. [2]

Extract: OMEGA: Yes, sir. (She reads with great seriousness.)
Mistress Mary, quite contrary,
How does your garden grow?
With cockle shells and silver bells
And pretty maids all in a row.
OOP: Ha, ha, ha. Imagine that. Pretty maids growing in a garden.
THINK-TANK: (alarmed) Stop! This is no time for levity. Don't you realise the seriousness of this discovery? The Earthlings have discovered how to combine agriculture and mining. They can actually grow crops of rare metals such as silver. And cockle shells. They can grow high explosives, too. Noodle, contact our invasion fleet.

NOODLE: They are ready to go down and take over Earth, sir.

(The Book that Saved the Earth)

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

[Board 2026 (2/3/1), sub-parts adapted]

(i) THINK-TANK's interpretation of the rhyme shows that he _____. [1]

(ii) The word "levity" in the extract means the same as:
(a) gravity (b) humour (c) seriousness (d) fear [1]

(iii) OOP's laughter and THINK-TANK's alarm at the same lines highlight the difference between _____. [1]

(iv) Why does THINK-TANK order the invasion fleet to be contacted? What does this reveal about the Martians' understanding of Earth? Answer in about 40 words. [2]

Answer Key (MCQs and Assertion–Reason)

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

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

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

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