CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

CBSE 2026-27

English Language and Literature

Subject Code: 184 | Class X

Question Bank – Set 4

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) Plastic pollution has become one of the most pressing environmental issues, as rapidly increasing production of disposable plastic products is most visible in developing Asian and African nations, where garbage collection systems are often inefficient or nonexistent. But the developed world, especially in countries with low recycling rates, also has trouble properly collecting discarded plastics. Plastic trash has become so ubiquitous that it has prompted efforts to write a global treaty negotiated by the United Nations.

(2) Plastics made from fossil fuels are just over a century old. Production and development of thousands of new plastic products accelerated after World War II. It transformed the modern age so much that life without plastics is unrecognizable today. Plastics revolutionized medicine with life-saving devices, made space travel possible, lightened cars and jets, saving fuel and pollution, and saved lives with helmets, incubators, and equipment for clean drinking water.

(3) The conveniences plastics offer, however, led to a throw-away culture: today, single-use plastics account for 40 percent of the plastic produced every year. Many of these products, such as plastic bags and food wrappers, have a lifespan of mere minutes to hours, yet they may persist in the environment for hundreds of years.

(4) Most of the plastic trash in the oceans is carried to sea by major rivers, which act as conveyor belts, picking up more and more trash as they move downstream. Once at sea, much of the plastic trash remains in coastal waters. But once caught up in ocean currents, it can be transported around the world.

(5) Millions of animals are killed by plastics every year, from birds to fish to other marine organisms. Nearly 700 species, including endangered ones, are known to have been affected by plastics. Nearly every species of seabird eats plastics. Most of the deaths of animals are caused by entanglement or starvation. Seals, whales, turtles, and other animals are strangled by abandoned fishing gear or discarded six-pack rings.

(6) The solution is to prevent plastic waste from entering rivers and seas in the first place, many scientists and conservationists — including the National Geographic Society — say. This could be accomplished with improved waste management systems and recycling, better product design that takes into account the short life of disposable packaging, and reduction in manufacturing of unnecessary single-use plastics. *(414 words)*

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

[Board 2024 (2/4/1)]

(i) Which of the following statements best describes the reason why plastic pollution has become one of the most pressing environmental issues?
(a) Plastic trash collection systems have become inefficient or nonexistent.
(b) Rapidly increasing production of disposable plastic products overwhelms waste management.
(c) Some plastics have a lifespan of mere minutes to hours, yet they may persist in the environment for hundreds of years.
(d) The developed world, especially in countries with low recycling rates, has trouble properly collecting plastics. [1]

(ii) What is the tone of the writer in the given lines from paragraph 2? Rationalise your response in about 40 words.

"It transformed the modern age so much that life without plastics is unrecognizable today." [1]

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

Opinion	Reason
Single-use plastics harm the environment	_____

[1]

(iv) The passage includes some words that are opposites of each other. From the sets (a)–(e) below, identify two sets of synonyms.
(a) transformed and revolutionized
(b) disposable and reusable

(c) persist and vanish
(d) abandoned and discarded
(e) entanglement and starvation [1]

(v) In the phrase 'act as conveyor belts', the word 'conveyor' refers to _____. [1]

(vi) Why does the writer call rivers 'conveyor belts' of plastic trash? Answer in about 40 words with reference to paragraph 4. [2]

(vii) Based on the reading of the passage, examine the link between plastic pollution and harm to marine animals.

Assertion (A): Nearly every species of seabird eats plastics.

Reason (R): Most of the deaths of animals are caused by entanglement or starvation.
(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]

(viii) What might be the author's purpose of including the views of scientists and conservationists in the concluding paragraph? [2]

Passage:

(1) A t-shirt for Rs 199, a dress for Rs 499, a new outfit for every party — fast fashion has made clothing almost disposable. Trends change weekly, prices keep falling, and shopping has never been easier. But a quiet counter-movement is growing: slow fashion, the practice of buying fewer, better garments and keeping them for longer.

(2) The environmental cost of fast fashion is enormous. The fashion industry is estimated to be one of the largest consumers of water in the world; producing a single cotton t-shirt can take over 2,000 litres. Synthetic fabrics like polyester shed microplastics into rivers and oceans with every wash. Most alarmingly, a huge share of cheap clothing is discarded within a year, ending up in landfills where synthetic fibres may take centuries to break down.

(3) Slow fashion responds at every stage of a garment's life. It favours durable materials, fair wages for workers, and designs meant to outlast a season. Its followers talk of 'capsule wardrobes' — small collections of versatile, well-made pieces that mix and match — and of repair culture, where a torn seam is stitched rather than binned. The point is not to stop enjoying clothes; it is to stop treating them as rubbish in waiting.

(4) There is an economic argument too. A Rs 999 pair of shoes replaced every year costs more over a decade than a Rs 3,000 pair resoled twice. Thrifting, swapping and renting have moved from fringe habits to mainstream choices, and resale platforms report steady growth. Slow fashion, once seen as a sacrifice, is increasingly understood as simply getting better value.

(5) Critics point out that sustainable brands remain expensive for ordinary families, and that no individual choice can fix an industry that produces billions of garments annually. These are fair objections. Yet the movement's answer is that price is only one part of the equation: buying less, repairing more, and passing clothes on are options open to nearly everyone.

(6) In the end, slow fashion asks the same question that saffron in a spice rack or organic food in a supermarket asks: what is the true cost of what we buy, and who pays it? The answer is changing the way a generation looks at its wardrobe — one careful purchase at a time. *(418 words)*

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

(i) Why does the writer call fast fashion clothing 'almost disposable'? Answer in about 40 words. (Paragraph 1) [1]

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

Assertion (A): Fast fashion harms the environment.

Reason (R): Producing a single cotton t-shirt can take over 2,000 litres of water, and synthetic fabrics shed microplastics when washed.
(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:

Concept	Meaning
Capsule wardrobe	_____

[1]

(iv) The writer presents both the economic argument for slow fashion and the critics' objections. Examine in about 40 words how the writer responds to the critics. (Paragraphs 4 and 5) [2]

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

According to the passage, repairing clothes is a central part of slow fashion. (Paragraph 3) [1]

(vi) In the phrase 'rubbish in waiting', the writer suggests that cheap clothing is _____.
(a) stylish for a short time (b) destined to be thrown away soon (c) kept for special occasions (d) cheaper than it looks [1]

(vii) What is the tone of the writer in the concluding paragraph? Rationalise your response in about 40 words. [2]

(viii) The writer links slow fashion to other conscious-consumption choices in paragraph 6. State one point of similarity between them. [1]

Passage:

(1) Organic food is very popular these days. It can also be very expensive. Some organic food costs twice as much as non-organic food. Parents of young children and even some pet owners will pay high prices for organic food if they think it is healthier. But many others think organic food is just a waste of money.

(2) There is one main difference between organic and non-organic food. Organic farms do not use agricultural chemicals such as pesticides that stop insects from damaging crops. In many countries, foods that claim to be organic must have special labels that show the food was grown organically.

(3) Over a period of time organic farming has become a big business, with many organic foods now being grown by large agricultural companies that sell their products far from where they are grown. At first, only small companies produced these products. But as demand overtook supply, big food companies that had been selling non-organic products for many years also began selling organic products.

(4) Is organic food safer and more nutritious? This is an important part of the debate. Many farmers and consumers believe it is safer and more nutritious. They think agricultural chemicals can cause serious illnesses. However, recent studies have shown that eating organically-grown produce reduces your chances of developing heart disease. Many doctors think it is more important to stop dangerous bacteria from contaminating foods. These bacteria can contaminate both organic and non-organic fruits and vegetables, and doctors recommend washing produce carefully before eating it. Meat, fish and chicken can also become contaminated, so washing your hands before handling these foods is also very important.

(5) Organic food is here to stay. Sales are rising steadily, and the range of products keeps growing. Whether or not it deserves its reputation, the label has changed the way millions of shoppers think about what they eat — and that, perhaps, is its real power. *(375 words)*

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

[Board 2023 (2/2/1)]

(i) People are willing to pay high prices for organic food because _____.
(a) it is not easily available.
(b) it helps in weight loss.
(c) it is produced by small companies.
(d) they believe it is healthier. [1]

(ii) Select the option that displays what the writer projects with reference to the following:

"Is organic food safer and more nutritious? This is an important part of the debate."

(a) denial (b) confirmation (c) caution (d) acceptance [1]

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

Opinion	**Reason**
_____	Big food companies have started selling organic food products.

[1]

(iv) The writer contrasts organic food with non-organic food. State one point of comparison between the two. [1]

(v) Based on your reading of the text, list one benefit of eating organic food. [1]

(vi) What connection does the writer draw between contamination of food and washing hands? Answer in about 40 words. [2]

(vii) The writer says that people believe that it is safer and more nutritious to eat organic food. Select the reason for his sceptical view.
(a) the price decides the popularity
(b) there is no confirmed evidence
(c) it is tastier
(d) it is marketed by big food companies [1]

(viii) In about 40 words, justify why the author calls the organic label's 'real power' the change in shoppers' thinking rather than health benefits. [2]

2. Reading Skills – Case-based Passage

Case Study

Passage:

(1) Fascination of glassware has captivated people all over the world for its blending utility, artistry and cultural significance. The invention of glassblowing, a technique that involves inflating molten glass into a bubble with the help of a blowpipe, revolutionized the craft, making glassware more accessible, affordable and versatile. This allowed the mass production of glass vessels.

(2) In India, the craze for glassware has made this industry a significant segment of the manufacturing sector which is notably contributing to both — domestic consumption and exports. India's glass industry comprises a diverse range of products such as container glass, flat glass, and fibreglass. As of 2024, the Indian glass industry was valued at approximately Rs 40,338 crore. The growth is fuelled by increasing sustainability and the rising demand for decorative items. The flat glass segment, essential for the construction and automotive sectors, contributes around 55% of the total industry revenue. Due to rising demand for energy-efficient buildings, toughened glass is extensively employed. It is also used in automotive windows, doors, facades, and shower screens. In packaging, container glass is used especially for beverages and pharmaceuticals, which makes up around 25% of the market.

(3) Firozabad in Uttar Pradesh is the heart of the Indian glass industry and is often referred to as the 'City of Glass'. Firozabad specializes in decorative glassware, chandeliers, bangles and domestic glass products. More than 400 glassware manufacturing units provide employment to over 1,50,000 workers.

The Indian glass industry at a glance (2024):

Indicator	Value
Industry value	Rs 40,338 crore
Flat glass share of revenue	55%
Container glass share	25%
Units in Firozabad	400+
Workers employed	1,50,000+

(250 words)

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

[Board 2026 (2/3/1)]

(i) Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below. (Paragraph 1)

Assertion: The invention of glassblowing has expanded the glass industry all over the world.

Reason: Glassblowing allowed craftsmen to produce complex glass objects faster and in large quantities.

(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]

(ii) In paragraph 2, identify the word that indicates people's fascination for glassware. [1]

(iii) Support with evidence from the passage that India's glass industry has a 'diverse range'. (Paragraph 2) [2]

(iv) Read the given prompt and select the correct option in the brackets to fill in the blank. (Paragraph 2)

The percentage of container glass used in pharmaceuticals and packaging is _____. (23%, 25%, 28%) [1]

(v) Why is Firozabad referred to as the 'City of Glass'? (Paragraph 3) [1]

(vi) What does the number of workers in the glassware industry emphasize about the employability of Firozabad? (Paragraph 3) [1]

(vii) Complete the sentence appropriately:

India's glass industry is unique as compared to global leaders like China and the USA because _____.

[1]

(viii)How does using recycled glass benefit the glassware industry environmentally? [1]

(ix) Complete the following with a suitable reason:

The Indian glass industry is facing many challenges because _____. [1]

Passage:

(1) A detailed study conducted across various industries and research sectors has shed light on the evolving landscape of artificial intelligence (AI). It revealed that nearly 70% of AI applications are developed by private tech companies, driven by innovation and market competition. About 20% stem from collaborations between academic institutions and industry leaders, fostering advancements in fields such as healthcare, finance, and transportation.

(2) Interestingly, around 10% of AI initiatives are spearheaded by governmental or non-governmental organisations, often focussing on social welfare. These projects aim to address issues like disaster prediction, agricultural efficiency, and public health monitoring.

(3) Among the AI applications, approximately 45% focus on automation, improving productivity and reducing operational cost. Around 30% cater to predictive analytics, aiding in decision-making processes in domains such as finance and weather forecasting. The remaining 25% revolve around interactive AI, such as chatbots and virtual assistants, enhancing user engagement and accessibility.

(4) Further analysis indicates that about 60% of AI implementations are found in urban areas, particularly in tech hubs and metropolitan cities. Around 30% are applied in industrial zones, enhancing manufacturing and logistics. The remaining 10% serve rural and underserved regions, supporting initiatives like digital literacy, healthcare access and agricultural support.

Who develops AI? Who uses it?

Developer	Share	Application area	Share
Private tech companies	70%	Automation	45%
Academia–industry tie-ups	20%	Predictive analytics	30%
Government / NGOs	10%	Interactive AI	25%

(242 words)

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

[Board 2026 (2/4/1)]

(i) What does the use of the phrase 'evolving landscape of artificial intelligence' in paragraph 1 suggest?
(a) disinterest (b) progress and development (c) frustration (d) confusion [1]

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

Assertion: Governmental and non-governmental organisations often use AI for social welfare.

Reason: These organisations focus on disaster prediction, agricultural efficiency, and public health monitoring.
(a) Both the assertion and reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
(b) Both the assertion and reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.
(c) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.
(d) The assertion is false, but the reason is true. [1]

(iii) Identify the word or phrase that indicates supervision as one of the areas of AI applications. (Paragraph 2) [1]

(iv) How do AI applications contribute to societal development, especially in rural and underserved regions? [1]

(v) Read the given prompt and select the correct option in the brackets to fill in the blank:

In a remote village, an AI powered system is used to monitor crop health and provide timely updates to farmers. The percentage of AI initiatives in this segment would be categorized under _____. (10% / 30% / 45%) [1]

(vi) What does the high percentage of AI implementations in urban areas suggest about the development and adoption of technology? [1]

(vii) Complete the sentence suitably:

The collaboration between academic institutions and industry leaders in developing AI applications demonstrates _____. [1]

(viii) Complete the following with a suitable reason:

The most likely reason the passage mentions 'interactive AI' as a key focus area is because it enhances _____. [1]

(ix) In the context of the last paragraph, describe the significance of comparing various parameters such as ethical concerns, accessibility, industry-specific applications, and societal impact in understanding the evolving AI landscape. [2]

Passage:

(1) A city library, closed for renovation for two years, reopened in April with a simple question: what brings teenagers back to a library in the streaming age? The librarians found their answer not in louder shelves but in listening — a survey of 500 young visitors in the first month.

(2) The results surprised even the optimists. 74% of teenage visitors said they came to study for exams, and 58% specifically wanted 'quiet, phone-free zones'. Fiction borrowing, the library's old pride, drew only 31%. Yet the most striking number was 46% — the share who said they would join a book club or discussion group 'if friends came too'. Reading, it seems, is not dying; it is becoming social again.

(3) The librarians redesigned accordingly. The main hall became a strict silent zone; a glass-walled corner became a 'discussion den' with beanbags and a monthly book-club board; and the noticeboard near the entrance began listing exam-season extended hours. Within three months, weekly footfall of visitors aged 13 to 19 nearly doubled, and — against every prediction — fiction issues to this age group rose by a fifth.

(4) The lesson the librarians drew is one that schools and city planners might borrow: the young do not abandon institutions; institutions abandon relevance. When a space answers real needs — silence, company, and a schedule that fits exam life — the books begin moving on their own.

What brings teenagers back? (survey of 500):

Reason for visiting	Share
Exam study	74%
Quiet, phone-free zones	58%
Would join book club if friends came	46%
Fiction borrowing	31%

(240 words)

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

(i) What problem was the library trying to solve with its survey? (Paragraph 1) [1]

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

Finding	Meaning
Reading is 'becoming social again'	_____

[1]

(iii) The most striking survey number, according to the writer, is 46%. Why does the writer call it 'striking'? (Paragraph 2) [1]

(iv) Complete the sentence suitably:

The librarians made fiction borrowing attractive again by _____. (Paragraph 3) [1]

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

Fiction issues to visitors aged 13–19 fell after the redesign. (Paragraph 3) [1]

(vi) The three redesign measures each answered a survey finding. Match each measure to the need it served, and explain the correspondence in about 40 words. [2]

(vii) In the phrase 'institutions abandon relevance', the word 'relevance' refers to _____.

(a) the age of the building (b) connection to real needs (c) the number of books (d) strict silence rules [1]

(viii) What does the rise in fiction issues 'against every prediction' suggest about earlier assumptions? [1]

(ix) Give one reason why exam-season extended hours were announced on the entrance noticeboard. [1]

3. Grammar

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Q1. Fill in the blank with the correct option to complete the opening line of a formal email:
[SQP 2026-27] Dear Ms. Sharma,
We are writing to confirm that your application for the scholarship programme _____ by our selection committee last week. **[1]**

(a) has been reviewed (b) was reviewed (c) has been reviewing (d) will be reviewed

Q2. Fill in the blank with the correct option to complete a message from Yogita to her friend Shobit:
[Board 2026 (2/1/1)] Dear Shobit,
Let's meet at 5 p.m. for the rehearsal but I need to go home first as I _____ anything since morning. **[1]**

(a) did not eat (b) had not eaten (c) have not eaten (d) am not eating

Q3. Complete the given sentence with the correct form of the verb by selecting the correct option:
[Board 2026 (2/2/1)] A case _____ against the unidentified truck driver for causing damage to the street poles due to negligence and rash driving. **[1]**

(a) was registered (b) is register (c) have been registered (d) may registered

Q4. Choose the correct option to fill in the blank in the given line from a short story:
[SQP 2023-24] Unlike the previous month, he _____ away for quite some time that month. **[1]**

(a) has been (b) had been (c) is (d) was being

Q5. Choose the correct option to complete the statement.
[BoardComptt 2024] I feel certain that Soham _____ in his new business because he works so hard all the time. **[1]**

(a) is succeeding (b) will succeed (c) has succeeded (d) will be succeeding

Q6. Select the correct option to complete the given sentence from a sports commentary:
[SQP 2024-25 (adapted)] Our team _____ with renewed vigour in the second half. **[1]**

(a) is going to playing (b) will be playing (c) will have played (d) had been played

Very Short Answer (VSA)

Q7. Report the dialogue between an employer and Raman. Complete the sentence using reported speech.
[BoardComptt 2024] **Employer:** Can you manage the post of a public relations executive?
Raman: I am sure I will be able to do the job competently.
The employer asked Raman _____. Raman assured him that he would be able to do the job competently. **[1]**

Q8. Report the following question.
[SQP 2025-26] She said to her sister, "Are you joining us for lunch today?" **[1]**

Q9. Read Sana's reply to her team leader, regarding the preparation of an important presentation.
[SQP 2024-25] *"I'm sorry I forgot ma'am. I'll have the presentation ready for you very soon today."*
Report Sana's reply by completing the following sentence correctly.
Sana apologised for having forgotten and said _____. **[1]**

Q10. Report the dialogue between a flight attendant and a passenger by filling in the blank.
[Board 2026 (2/1/1)] **Attendant:** Did you have your dinner, sir?
Passenger: Yes, thank you!
The flight attendant asked the passenger _____. The passenger replied in affirmation and thanked him. **[1]**

4. Writing Skills – Formal Letter

Long Answer (LA)

Q1. You are Devi / Dev Arora a concerned resident. You are deeply concerned at the overflowing garbage dumps in the city. Besides being eyesores, these dumps create environmental and health risks. They produce a foul odour and attract stray animals and other scavengers. Write a letter to the Municipal Commissioner drawing attention to the situation. Suggest the need to identify systemic flows in the collection system due to insufficient collection vehicles and irregular cleaning of dumps. **[5]**

[Board 2026 (2/5/1)]

Q2. You are Soumya Hansal / Sumit Hansal living at F-32, Shanti Nagar, Vayugarh. Seeing the inadequate healthcare infrastructure in your town, write a letter to the MLA of your area, in about 120 words, suggesting the need for improving existing healthcare facilities and creating more ‘‘Wellness Centres” including a specialized hospital for children and women. **[5]**

[Board 2025 (2/1/1)]

Q3. You are Kapil/Kavita, sports secretary of Ajax World School, Gurugram. You want to place an order for sports articles for the school cricket team to Rotary Sports, Janakpuri, New Delhi. Write a letter in about 120 words. Remember to include relevant information about quality and quantity of products, specific details, school discount, delivery date and mode of payment. **[5]**

[Board 2024 (2/3/1)]

5. Writing Skills – Analytical Paragraph

Long Answer (LA)

Q1. As the Captain of the school's Cultural Club, you have been asked to study the given itinerary provided by a tour-organizing vendor. Analyse the itinerary and write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words, evaluating whether the tour is suitable for the club members, considering aspects such as timing, places, costs and activities.

[SQP 2025-26]

Day	Itinerary details
Day 1	Departure by train at 6 a.m.; hotel check-in; evening street-food walk
Day 2	Heritage monuments tour (9 a.m.–1 p.m.); folk-dance workshop (4–6 p.m.)
Day 3	Art museum visit; craft bazaar shopping; night departure
Cost: Rs. 4,500 per head (travel, 2-night stay, breakfast, entry tickets)	

[5]

Q2. Tsering, of class X, is contesting for the post of the Junior School Captain, in the upcoming student council elections. Given below are her character traits shared in the public domain by the school counsellor for the awareness of student voters at school.

[SQP 2023-24]

Tsering's character traits
responsible; empathetic listener
disciplined and punctual
confident orator; mediates disputes fairly
occasional over-commitment; sets high standards

All Tsering's peers have been asked to write a paragraph in about 120 words, analysing these traits, to either support or oppose her candidature. As one of her peers, write this analytical paragraph, by selecting some of the traits that support your analysis.

You may begin like this: As a responsible student voter, I believe Tsering possesses / does not possess the necessary traits to be a School Captain.

You may end like this: For these reasons, I believe she has / does not have the potential to be a good School Captain and I support / oppose her candidature. **[5]**

Q3. Natural food typically refers to food that has not been processed or preserved in any significant way before it is consumed, while ultra-processed food refers to food items that have been altered from their natural state through various methods. Given below is a table that differentiates between natural and processed foods. Study the description given and write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words, drawing a comparison between the two.

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

Natural food	Processed food
retains nutrients and fibre fresh, short shelf life requires cooking time	added sugars, salts, preservatives convenient, long shelf life instant or ready to eat

[5]

6. First Flight – Prose and Drama

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Q1. 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

Q2. After the death of her only son, Kisa Gotami [The Sermon at Benares] **[1]**

(a) carried the body from house to house seeking medicine
(b) buried her son at once and left the village
(c) went to the river to pray
(d) stayed silent in the temple

Q3. The kabai, the dress of the baker in earlier times, was a [A Baker from Goa] **[1]**

(a) shirt and trousers
(b) single piece long frock reaching down to the knees
(c) full-length suit
(d) pair of half pants

Q4. The purpose of the treatment given to the young seagull by his parents was to [His First Flight] **[1]**

(a) punish him for his laziness
(b) make him brave enough to fly
(c) teach him to swim
(d) separate him from his family

Q5. According to the Buddha, peace of mind is NOT obtained by [The Sermon at Benares] **[1]**

(a) weeping
(b) accepting the universal truth of death
(c) letting go of grief
(d) finding a cure for suffering

Q6. The Coorgi people are known for their [Coorg] **[1]**

(a) martial traditions and bravery
(b) pottery and weaving
(c) fishing and boat-making
(d) tea-processing

Q7. Which action of Valli shows that she did not want to miss out on any part of the experience? [Madam Rides the Bus] **[1]**

(a) She sat quietly at the back.
(b) She stood up on the seat and peered over the blind.
(c) She asked the conductor to stop the bus.
(d) She closed her eyes and rested.

Q8. When the narrator came out of the clouds, the lights of a runway appeared. This made him feel [The Black Aeroplane] **[1]**

(a) frightened and lost
(b) angry with his friend
(c) safe
(d) bored

Q9. Coorg is located in the state of [Coorg] **[1]**

(a) Kerala
(b) Karnataka
(c) Tamil Nadu
(d) Goa

Q10. As soon as the pilot was inside the cloud, _____. [The Black Aeroplane] **[1]**

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

Assertion–Reason

Q11. **Assertion (A):** The narrator felt safe when he saw the runway lights.
Reason (R): The runway meant that the aeroplane could land safely at an airport. [The Black Aeroplane] **[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):** Coorg is described by the writer as a piece of heaven.

Reason (R): Its hills, greenery and forests create a picturesque landscape. [Coorg] **[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): The young seagull was reluctant to leave his ledge.

Reason (R): He was frightened of the wide sea below and unsure that his wings could carry him. [His First Flight] **[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 does Pranjol mean by saying that Assam has the largest concentration of plantations in the world? [Tea from Assam] **[1]**

Q15. Upon encountering the dead cow on the road, Valli was emotional. What does this reveal about her? [Madam Rides the Bus] **[2]**

Q16. What attracts visitors to Coorg? [Coorg] **[2]**

Q17. What moral values did Kisa Gotami learn after the death of her son? [The Sermon at Benares] **[2]**

Short Answer (SA)

Q18. Assess the narrative's effectiveness in portraying the tension between the comfort of familiarity and the allure of the unfamiliar in "Madam Rides the Bus". [Madam Rides the Bus] **[3]**

Q19. How does Chubukov's reaction to Lomov's marriage proposal reflect his priorities and values? [The Proposal] **[3]**

Q20. What does the postmaster's reaction to Lencho's letter reveal about his character? [A Letter to God] **[3]**

Q21. What was Chubukov's reaction when he discovered the actual purpose behind Lomov's visit? [The Proposal] **[3]**

Q22. Engaging in discussions and disputes rarely leads to problem resolution. Support the statement with evidence from the text. [The Proposal] **[3]**

Q23. How does the Buddha bring about a different perspective in Kisa Gotami's understanding of life? [The Sermon at Benares] **[3]**

Long Answer (LA)

Q24. Valli was an extraordinary girl who had self-confidence and courage to realise her ambition by planning and drawing on her spirit of adventure. Discuss in reference to the chapter. (100–120 words) [Madam Rides the Bus] **[6]**

Q25. How does literature like 'A Baker from Goa', 'Coorg', and 'Tea from Assam' contribute to promoting tourism and raising awareness about regional cultures and traditions? [Coorg] **[6]**

Q26. "In spite of the heartrending circumstances in which the diary was written, it was not an inspiring but rather a depressing book." Explore. (100–120 words) [From the Diary of Anne Frank] **[6]**

Case Study

Extract: Natalya: But what's this? Why, you're in evening dress! Well, I never! Are you going to a ball or what? Though I must say you look better… Tell me, why are you got up like that?
Lomov: [excited] You see, honoured Natalya Stepanova… the fact is, I've made up my mind to ask you to hear me out… Of course you'll be surprised and perhaps even angry, but a… [aside] It's awfully cold! *(The Proposal)*

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

[SQP 2026-27]

(i) Natalya's attitude in the opening lines is best described as:
(a) welcoming
(b) surprised and teasing
(c) fearful
(d) angry [1]

(ii) What do the ellipses (…) in Lomov's speech highlight?
(a) his hesitation and nervousness
(b) his anger
(c) his confidence
(d) his boredom [1]

(iii) Lomov's aside, "It's awfully cold!", shows that he is _____. [1]

(iv) Why is Lomov's speech broken and hesitant, and how does his manner affect the conversation? Answer in about 40 words. [2]

Extract: Not a leaf remained on the trees. The corn was totally destroyed. The flowers were gone from the plants. Lencho's soul was filled with sadness. When the storm had passed, he stood in the middle of the field and said to his sons, ''A plague of locusts would have left more than this. The hail has left nothing. This year we will have no corn.''
That night was a sorrowful one.
''All our work, for nothing.'' ''There's no one who can help us.'' ''We'll all go hungry this year.'' *(A Letter to God)*

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

[Board 2025 (2/1/1), adapted]

(i) Lencho's words "The hail has left nothing" show that he felt _____ about the future of his farm. [1]

(ii) Why did Lencho say, "A plague of locusts would have left more than this"?
(a) Locusts destroy only leaves
(b) Locusts would have left some crop, but the hail had left nothing
(c) Locusts are more dangerous than hail
(d) He wanted his sons to fear locusts [1]

(iii) The family's mood after the storm can be described in one word as _____. [1]

(iv) What does the family's despair, "We'll all go hungry this year", reveal about their dependence on the harvest? Answer in about 40 words. [2]

Extract: Writing in a diary is a really strange experience for someone like me. Not only because I've never written anything before, but also because it seems to me that later on neither I nor anyone else will be interested in the musings of a thirteen-year-old schoolgirl. Oh well, it doesn't matter. I feel like writing, and I have an even greater need to get all kinds of things off my chest.
'Paper has more patience than people.' I thought of this saying on one of those days when I was feeling a little depressed and was sitting at home with my chin in my hands, bored and listless, wondering whether to stay

in or go out. I finally stayed where I was, brooding: Yes, paper does have more patience and since I'm not planning to let anyone else read this stiff-backed notebook grandly referred to as a 'diary' unless I should ever find a real friend, it probably won't make a bit of difference. *(From the Diary of Anne Frank)*

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

[BoardComptt 2024 (2/S/1)]

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

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

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

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

7. First Flight – Poetry

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Q1. 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

Q2. 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

Q3. Which of the following best describes the speaker's attitude towards the boy's reaction to losing his ball? [The Ball Poem] **[1]**

(a) indifferent, as the ball is inexpensive
(b) sympathetic, understanding the depth of the boy's loss
(c) mocking, finding the boy's reaction exaggerated and unnecessary
(d) panicked, sharing the boy's distress over the lost ball

Q4. What inference can be drawn from the repetition of 'suddenly, suddenly' in the lines 'Suddenly, suddenly they heard a nasty sound, / And Mustard growled, and they all looked around'? [The Tale of Custard the Dragon] **[1]**

(a) The scene shook the house.
(b) It highlights the swift assault.
(c) It emphasises that an unexpected noise was heard.
(d) It directs our notice to Mustard's growling.

Q5. The speaker sides with those who favour fire as the agent of destruction because [Fire and Ice] **[1]**

(a) he has read about it in scientific theories
(b) he has personally experienced the destructive power of desire
(c) he believes ice is too weak to destroy anything
(d) he wants to frighten the readers

Q6. The dusting of snow on the speaker was most probably caused by [Dust of Snow] **[1]**

(a) the wind blowing through the tree
(b) the movement of the crow on the hemlock tree
(c) a fresh snowfall
(d) the speaker shaking the branch

Q7. In the poem *Dust of Snow*, which negative symbols have been used to create a positive effect? [Dust of Snow] **[1]**

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

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

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

Q9. 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.

Assertion–Reason

Q10. **Assertion (A):** Amanda escapes the constant scolding of her mother through her fantasies.
Reason (R): Amanda imagines herself as an orphan and as a mermaid, roles in which no one nags her and she feels free. [Amanda!] **[1]**

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

Q11. **Assertion (A):** The boy in 'The Ball Poem' learns that some losses cannot be undone with money.
Reason (R): The speaker says 'And no one buys a ball back', and that 'Money is external' to the real lesson of loss. [The Ball Poem] **[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 believes that ice too is capable of destroying the world.
Reason (R): Hatred, like desire, is a powerful and destructive human emotion. [Fire and Ice] **[1]**
(a) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
(b) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
(c) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
(d) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Very Short Answer (VSA)

Q13. What lesson does '*For Anne Gregory*' present for youthful love? [For Anne Gregory] **[2]**

Q14. State any two points of contrast between the tiger in the zoo and the tiger in its natural habitat, as described in the poem. [A Tiger in the Zoo] **[2]**

Q15. Explain briefly the significance of the line 'The moon is broken like a mirror, its pieces flash now in the crown of the tallest oak.' Answer in about 30 words. [The Trees] **[2]**

Short Answer (SA)

Q16. The use of symbolism in the poem '*Fire and Ice*' conveys the poet's message effectively. Expand with reference to the poem. [Fire and Ice] **[3]**

Q17. Analyse how Wells employs humour, rhyme and exaggerated traits to not only entertain but also educate readers about various wild animals. Explain. Answer in about 40–50 words. [How to Tell Wild Animals] **[3]**

Q18. '*Dust of Snow*', by Robert Frost is a poem about nature and simplicity. Elaborate. [Dust of Snow] **[3]**

Q19. In every alternate stanza, Amanda drifts into fantasy and yearns for more freedom and silence. Justify and elaborate the reason. Answer in about 40–50 words. [Amanda!] **[3]**

Q20. Every creature possesses a unique characteristic that defines it, and this trait is closely linked to its nature. This concept is beautifully illustrated in the poem '*How to Tell Wild Animals*'. Elucidate. Answer in about 40–50 words. [How to Tell Wild Animals] **[3]**

Long Answer (LA)

Q21. Both poems '*Dust of Snow*' and '*Fire and Ice*' use contrasting elements of nature to convey their respective messages about life and human emotions but they do it differently. Examine these differences. [Dust of Snow; Fire and Ice] **[6]**

Q22. The poems '*The Trees*' and '*A Tiger in the Zoo*' resonate the theme of the importance of freedom and the desire to break free from any kind of dominance. Examine. Answer in 100–120 words. [The Trees; A Tiger in the Zoo] **[6]**

Q23. The poems '*The Ball Poem*' and '*Dust of Snow*' capture brief moments that teach lasting lessons. How do these poems propose that momentary events generate a lasting impact? [Dust of Snow; The Ball Poem] **[6]**

Case Study

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)*

Q24. 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]

Extract: Or if some time when roaming round,
A noble wild beast greets you,
With black stripes on a yellow ground,
Just notice if he eats you.
This simple rule may help you learn
The Bengal Tiger to discern. *(How to Tell Wild Animals)*

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

[SQP 2025-26]

(i) The poet refers to the Bengal Tiger as a 'noble wild beast'. This implies that the tiger is:
(a) majestic and dignified despite its ferocity
(b) kind and considerate towards humans
(c) of royal lineage and to be revered
(d) a symbol of fear and destruction [1]

(ii) Complete the sentence: the word 'ground' in the line 'With black stripes on a yellow ground' refers to _____. [1]

(iii) Which line of the extract offers the reader a simple guideline to identify the tiger? [1]

(iv) How does the poet use humour in the description of the Bengal Tiger? Answer in about 40 words. [2]

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

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

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

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

(d) fearful of Amanda [1]

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

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

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

8. Footprints Without Feet

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Q1. 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

Q2. 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

Q3. Mr Herriot found it a "temptation" to keep Tricki on as a permanent guest because [A Triumph of Surgery] **[1]**

(a) he had grown fond of the little dog
(b) Tricki's treatment fees were very high
(c) the eggs, wine and brandy sent for Tricki were being enjoyed by the household
(d) Tricki guarded the surgery at night

Q4. Ausable defeated Max without a weapon because his real weapon was [The Midnight Visitor] **[1]**

(a) his physical strength
(b) the pistol under his coat
(c) the waiter waiting outside
(d) his presence of mind and command of narrative

Q5. At the end of the story, Horace worked as an assistant librarian in prison. This detail is ironic because [A Question of Trust] **[1]**

(a) he hated books
(b) books were the very things he had stolen for
(c) he wanted to be a writer
(d) he had never been to a library

Q6. In the seventh grade, Ebright lost the county science fair because [The Making of a Scientist] **[1]**

(a) his slides of frog tissues were not neat
(b) he had shown a neat display instead of doing a real experiment
(c) his microscope was faulty
(d) he forgot to label his slides

Q7. Anil's carelessness made stealing from him _____ for Hari Singh. [The Thief's Story] **[1]**

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

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

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

Q9. 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.

Assertion–Reason

Q10. **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.

Q11. **Assertion (A):** Matilda's ten years of poverty could have been avoided by a single act of honesty.
Reason (R): The necklace she replaced with thirty-six thousand francs was made of false diamonds and worth almost nothing. [The Necklace] **[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):** A book of nursery rhymes saved the Earth from a Martian invasion.
Reason (R): Think-Tank misread the rhymes as reports of advanced technology and weapons, and his fear led him to call off the invasion and flee. [The Book that Saved the Earth] **[1]**
(a) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
(b) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
(c) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
(d) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Very Short Answer (VSA)

Q13. Why did Hari Singh think that Anil's job was "queer"? [The Thief's Story] **[2]**

Q14. Why is Ausable described as "fat" and "very fat"? What purpose does this description serve in the story? [The Midnight Visitor] **[2]**

Q15. Why did no one believe Horace when he said the lady of the house had asked him to open the safe? [A Question of Trust] **[2]**

Short Answer (SA)

Q16. The unexpected encounter with the voice in the doorway affects Horace's burglary attempt. Elaborate. [A Question of Trust] **[3]**

Q17. Analyse how the writer uses irony throughout the story to convey the message that vanity and materialism lead to one's downfall. [The Necklace] **[3]**

Q18. Why do you think Anil did not hand Hari Singh over to the police even though he had discovered the theft? [The Thief's Story] **[3]**

Q19. Why does Horace Danby consider himself an honest man despite being a thief? How does this self-perception affect his decision in the story? [A Question of Trust] **[3]**

Q20. Ausable remained one step ahead of Max throughout. Elaborate. [The Midnight Visitor] **[3]**

Long Answer (LA)

Q21. 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]**

Q22. Comment critically on the role of the Surgery in *A Triumph of Surgery*. [A Triumph of Surgery] **[6]**

Q23. "That's why you wanted to hand me over to this heartless creature. But now the dumb cow, the stammering fool, is speaking. Do you want to hear more?" Trace the journey that takes Bholi from a "dumb-driven cow" to a woman who can say this to her family. What does her transformation show about the power of education? [Bholi] **[6]**

Case Study

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)

Q24. 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]

Extract: The arrival of a stranger at an inn in winter was in any case an unusual event. A stranger of such uncommon appearance set all tongues wagging. Mrs Hall, the landlord's wife, made every effort to be friendly. But Griffin had no desire to talk, and told her, "My reason for coming to Iping is a desire for solitude. I do not wish to be disturbed in my work. Besides, an accident has affected my face."
Satisfied that her guest was an eccentric scientist, and in view of the fact that he had paid her in advance, Mrs Hall was prepared to excuse his strange habits and irritable temper. *(Footprints Without Feet)*

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

[Board 2024 (2/4/1), sub-parts adapted]

(i) The phrase "set all tongues wagging" means the stranger made the villagers _____. [1]

(ii) Mrs Hall excused Griffin's strange habits and irritable temper. Which of these was NOT a reason for her doing so?
(a) she believed he was an eccentric scientist
(b) he had paid her in advance
(c) she was frightened of his temper
(d) his arrival was unusual in winter [1]

(iii) What does the extract suggest about the source of Griffin's money? _____ [1]

(iv) How does Griffin's statement about wanting "solitude" sit with the reality of his situation? Answer in about 40 words. [2]

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

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

[SQP 2023-24, sub-parts adapted]

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

(ii) The word "ornamental" suggests that people believed the spots were:

(a) functional (b) merely decorative (c) dangerous (d) rare [1]

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

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

Answer Key (MCQs and Assertion–Reason)

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

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

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

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