CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

CBSE 2026-27

English Language and Literature

Subject Code: 184 | Class X

Solutions

Sample Question Paper – Set 1

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

General Instructions

1. This question paper comprises 11 questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. The question paper contains THREE sections: Section A: Reading Skills; Section B: Grammar and Creative Writing Skills; Section C: Literature Textbook.
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.
4. All details presented in the questions in Section B (Writing) are imaginary and created for assessment purposes.

Exam Pattern

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

Unit-wise Weightage of Marks

Unit	Unit Name	Chapter	Marks
A	Reading Skills	Discursive passage (400–450 words); Case-based factual passage with visual input (200–250 words)	20
B	Grammar	Determiners; Tenses; Modals; Subject–verb concord; Reported speech (commands and requests, statements, questions)	10
B	Creative Writing Skills	Formal letter (100–120 words); Analytical paragraph (100–120 words)	10
C	First Flight	Prose, Drama and Poetry extracts; SA and LA questions	28
C	Footprints Without Feet	Extract, SA and LA questions	12

Unit	Unit Name	Chapter	Marks
	Total		**80**

SECTION – A

Reading Skills (20 marks)

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

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)*

(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]

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

Passage:

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

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

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

Indian cosmetics market:

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

(250 words)

(i) Complete the sentence with a reason:
The global demand for beauty products has intensified because of _____. (Paragraph 1) [1]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(ix) Complete the sentence suitably:

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

SECTION – B

Writing Skills with Grammar (20 marks)

GRAMMAR (10 marks)

Q3. Complete any ten of the twelve following tasks, as directed. ($1 \times 10 = 10$ marks) **[10]**

(I) Fill in the blank with the correct option to complete the opening line of a formal email:
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

(II) Read the dialogue between a librarian and a student.
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

(III) Report the given question.
Tariq said to Sunil, "Did you enjoy travelling by sea?" [1]

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

(V) Select the correct option to complete the given sentence from a debate script:
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

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

(VII) Complete the given sentence with the correct form of the verb by selecting the correct option:
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

(VIII) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a letter:
Dear Sir
In response to your query, the document that _____ (explain) our country's sustainability initiatives has been attached for your consideration. [1]

(IX) Read Sana's reply to her team leader, regarding the preparation of an important presentation.
"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]

(X) Rhea asked the following question to her colleague, Deepak.
Have you finalised the magazine content to be submitted tomorrow?
Report Rhea's question correctly. [1]

(XI) Fill in the blank with the correct option to complete a message from Yogita to her friend Shobit:
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

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

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

WRITING (10 marks)

Q4. A. You are Nirmala / Nirmal, a resident of Jhunjhunu Colony. Recently there have been a series of accidents and petty crimes in your colony. One of the reasons is poor street lighting. Write a letter to the Commissioner of the Works department, drawing attention to the urgent need to install street lights to avoid further crimes and accidents. **[5]**

OR

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

Q5. A. 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.

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]**

OR

(B) 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.

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

SECTION – C

Literature Textbook (40 marks)

Q6. Read the given extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE of the two. ($1 \times 5 = 5$ marks) **[5]**

(A)

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

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

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

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

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

OR

(B)

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)*

(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]

Q7. Read the given extracts A and B and answer ANY ONE of the two. ($1 \times 5 = 5$ marks) **[5]**

(A)

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)*

(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]

OR

(B)

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

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

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

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

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

Q8. Answer any four of the following five questions, in about 40–50 words each. ($4 \times 3 = 12$ marks) **[12]**

(I) Justify the opinion that the traditional baker and his bread play a significant role in the cultural and social fabric of Goan society.

(II) '*Dust of Snow*', by Robert Frost is a poem about nature and simplicity. Elaborate.

(III) Where is Coorg located? Write any two characteristics of the people of Coorg.

(IV) The use of symbolism in the poem '*Fire and Ice*' conveys the poet's message effectively. Expand with reference to the poem.

(V) What does the postmaster's reaction to Lencho's letter reveal about his character?

Q9. Answer any two of the following three questions, in about 40–50 words each. ($2 \times 3 = 6$ marks) **[6]**

(I) The unexpected encounter with the voice in the doorway affects Horace's burglary attempt. Elaborate.

(II) Compare Hari's initial approach to Anil with his honest smile at the story's end. What does this change reveal?

(III) How did Mrs Pumphrey treat Tricki? How did her treatment affect the dog?

Q10. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 100–120 words. ($1 \times 6 = 6$ marks) **[6]**

(A) 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)

OR

(B) 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)

Q11. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 100–120 words. ($1 \times 6 = 6$ marks) **[6]**

(A) In the story *The Midnight Visitor*, the "balcony" functions as the story's central plot device, yet it never physically exists. Discuss what the balcony symbolises in the story.

OR

(B) Comment critically on the role of the Surgery in *A Triumph of Surgery*.

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