CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

CBSE 2026-27

English Language and Literature

Subject Code: 184 | Class X

Solutions

Sample Question Paper – Set 2

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cause	Effect
Renewed demand in craft clusters	_____

[1]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Passage:

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

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

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

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

Survey of 400 residents — selected responses:

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

(248 words)

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

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

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

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

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

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

(iv) Based on the survey results, which two concerns should a city government, looking to install vertical

gardens, address? [1]

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

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

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

Vertical gardening is a unique method of gardening.

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

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

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

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) Report the following question.
She said to her sister, "Are you joining us for lunch today?" [1]

(II) Read the dialogue between Amit and his sister Ananya, regarding her travel to the railway station.
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

(III) Read Isha's statement to her class teacher about missing school:
"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]

(IV) Given below is the conversation between Sunil and a police officer. Complete the sentence by reporting it correctly.
Sunil: Where is my car, sir? I parked it here.
Police officer: The car has been towed away as you parked it in the 'No Parking' zone.
Sunil asked the police officer where his car was that he had parked there. The police officer replied that the car had been towed away as _____. [1]

(V) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket for the given portion of a market research:

The special subscriptions of newspapers are well _____ (illustrate), to make reading interesting for school students. [1]

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

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

(VII) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the update on a school alumnus:
We are delighted to share that Nishant _____ the National Science Olympiad this year. [1]

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

(VIII) Select the correct option to complete the given sentence from the school's safety policy:
All students _____ wear their identification badges at all times while on campus premises. [1]

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

(IX) Read the given sentence. Identify the error and supply the correction in the sentence.
Ninety-seven percent of the Earth's water is salty ocean water and another two percent is trapping in the Earth's ice caps and glaciers.

Error	Correction
_____	_____

[1]

(X) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the sentence from a news report:
The verdict is yet to come since the members of the jury _____ divided in their opinion. [1]

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

(XI) Report the dialogue between two friends by completing the sentence:
Harry: Good morning Bobby, how do you do?
Bobby: Quite well, thank you; but these are hard times.
Harry wished Bobby good morning and enquired about his well-being. Bobby thanked him and said that he was quite well, but remarked _____. [1]

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

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

WRITING (10 marks)

Q4. A. As Amitha, the Vice Head Girl of Vidya Mandir, you are aware of the increasing prevalence of cyber-attacks and unauthorised exploitation of systems, networks, and technologies affecting individuals across all demographics. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily in about 120 words, stressing the urgent need to promote digital security among all age groups. Highlight the challenges posed by cyber threats and propose practical solutions to address this growing issue. **[5]**

OR

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

Q5. A. Vikram, a student of Grade X, has been offered the position of President of his school's Debate Club, which requires 5–7 hours weekly commitment. Study the SWOT notes and write an analytical paragraph in 100–120 words to evaluate whether accepting this responsibility is advisable.

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

[5]

OR

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

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

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

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: 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)*

(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]

OR

(B)

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

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

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

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

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

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

(A)

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)*

(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]

OR

(B)

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

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

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

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

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

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

(I) Why has the writer included the legends about tea's origin, the Chinese emperor's story and Bodhidharma's tale, in the narrative?

(II) 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.

(III) Why did Kisa Gotami, despite her desperate efforts to find a solution for her grief, ultimately become weary and hopeless?

(IV) In the poem '*Fire and Ice*', how does the intense human emotion symbolised by fire lead to the destruction of the world?

(V) Describe how the narrator's aeroplane was affected once it entered the clouds.

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

(I) What role did Ebright's mother play in his growth as a scientist?

(II) Education is the tool that transforms Bholi from a stammering simpleton into a confident, self-respecting young woman. Elaborate.

(III) How did a book of nursery rhymes save the Earth from a Martian invasion?

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

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

OR

(B) What distinguishes the portrayal of the tiger in '*A Tiger in the Zoo*' from the depiction of the tiger in '*How to Tell Wild Animals*'? Answer in 100–120 words.

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

(A) 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.

OR

(B) "Honour among thieves" is considered a popular code. Examine *A Question of Trust* as a story woven around this code.

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