CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

CBSE 2026-27

English Language and Literature

Subject Code: 184 | Class X

Solutions

Sample Question Paper – Set 3

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) Saffron is a spice that has long been revered across the globe, captivating hearts and palates with its deep-red hue and complex flavour. It is one of the most prized spices that you can find on this planet. Just like gold is among the most valuable metals in the world, saffron means the same in the world of spices. Also known as 'kesar' in Hindi, it has a rich history and is often called an ancient spice. Saffron is being used since ages in various foods made for the royals and the elite as it contains medicinal properties.

(2) Originating from the delicate stigma of the saffron crocus flower, it transforms the ordinary into the extraordinary, infusing dishes with a subtle, earthy sweetness that adds a special taste to the palate. Saffron has a strong exotic aroma and a unique flavour and is used to colour and flavour many Mediterranean and Asian dishes, particularly rice, fish and English, Scandinavian, and Balkan breads.

(3) Saffron forms the backbone of several iconic dishes from around the world, such as the Spanish rice and seafood dish Paella, the French stew Bouillabaisse, the Italian rice dish Risotto Milanese, the Indian ice cream Kesar Kulfi, the Pakistani rice dish Biryani, and baked Iranian rice Tachin. Saffron's rich red colour is attributed to crocin; its bitter taste, to picrocrocin; and its distinctive aroma, to safranal.

(4) Saffron is cultivated chiefly in Iran but is also grown in Spain, France, Italy, and parts of India. A labour-intensive crop, the three stigmas are handpicked from each flower, spread on trays, and dried over charcoal fires for use as a food flavouring and colouring agent.

(5) Most historians speculate it was first domesticated in Iran, but south-western Greek islands remain strong contenders. Traders, conquerors, and world explorers introduced it to China, India and the Middle East. From there, it travelled to Mediterranean Europe.

(6) The high retail value of saffron is maintained in world markets because of labour-intensive harvesting methods, which require some 444,000 hand-picked saffron stigmas per kilogram — equivalently, 150,000 crocus flowers per kilogram. Forty hours of labour are needed to pick 150,000 flowers. Almost all saffron grows in a belt from Spain in the west to India in the east. Iran is responsible for around 88% of global production.

(7) Given its high price, adulteration is quite common, unfortunately. Adulterants like beetroot or pomegranate are used to enhance red colour; silk fibres, oil, or wax are used to add bulk, and powdered saffron can be adulterated with turmeric and paprika. *(447 words)*

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

"Saffron is being used since ages in various foods made for the royals and the elite as it contains medicinal properties." (Paragraph 1) [1]

(ii) Which of the following statements best describes the comparison made in the sentence?

"Just like gold is among the most valuable metals in the world, saffron means the same in the world of spices." (Paragraph 1)

(a) Gold and saffron have similar physical properties.
(b) Gold and saffron have equal monetary value.
(c) Saffron is considered the most valuable spice, similar to how gold is valued among metals.
(d) Gold and saffron are both rare commodities in the global market. [1]

(iii) List any two points why saffron is revered across the globe. (Paragraphs 2 and 3) [2]

(iv) Fill in the blank from the given options:

In the phrase 'backbone of several iconic dishes', the word 'iconic' refers to _____. (Paragraph 3)
(a) delicately cooked (b) widely recognized (c) peculiar and rare (d) strange and infamous [1]

(v) Complete the sentence appropriately:

Saffron has a labour-intensive cultivation process which involves _____. (Paragraph 4) [2]

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

According to historians, saffron was first used in the kitchens in Iran. (Paragraph 5) [1]

(vii) Which of the following statements best describes the reason for saffron's high retail value? (Paragraph 6)
(a) Due to its magical or mystical properties.
(b) Because it can only be grown in specific regions.
(c) Due to its labour-intensive cultivation process and its relatively low yield per plant.
(d) Because traders, conquerors, and world explorers hoard it. [1]

(viii) Support the writer's view with evidence from the text that saffron is often adulterated. (Paragraph 7) [1]

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

Passage:

(1) Silk is a natural protein fibre, some forms of which can be woven into textiles. Silk has a long history in India. It is known as Resham in eastern and northern India, and Pattu in the southern parts of India. India is the second largest producer of silk in the world after China.

(2) Silk is renowned for its luxurious qualities with a natural soft and smooth texture that feels comfortable on the skin. One of its unique qualities is to absorb and release moisture, regulating the body temperature, and keeping the wearer cool and dry.

(3) Silk is one of the strongest natural fibres, but it loses up to 20% of its strength when wet. Its elasticity is moderate to poor: if elongated even a small amount, it remains stretched. It can be weakened if exposed to too much sunlight. It may also be attacked by insects, especially if left dirty.

(4) The process of silk production is known as sericulture. Silk is produced by several insects; but, generally, only the silk of moth caterpillars has been used for textile manufacturing. To produce 1 kg of silk, 104 kg of mulberry leaves must be eaten by 3000 silkworms.

Raw silk production by state, 2021 (metric tonnes):

State	Production (MT)
Karnataka	8483
Andhra Pradesh	5520
Assam	5038
Chhattisgarh	248
Nagaland	230
Uttar Pradesh	179

(248 words)

(i) Silk is a popular fabric in India. Support the above statement in 40 words with evidence from the text. [2]

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

Assertion: Silk feels comfortable to the skin.

Reason: It is made of natural protein fibre.

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

(iii) Justify the following statement:

Though one of the strongest natural fibres, silk remains stretched. [1]

(iv) According to the passage, in what way is sunlight harmful to silk? [1]

(v) 'To produce 1 kg of silk, 104 kg of mulberry leaves must be eaten by 3000 silkworms.' State any one inference that can be drawn from the above statement. [1]

(vi) Complete the following with one suitable reason from the text:

Silk production work can be carried out by skilled artisans because _____. [1]

(vii) Based on the given table, which state was the smallest producer of raw silk in 2021? [1]

(viii) Which state's production is closest to half of Andhra Pradesh's? [1]

(ix) Give one reason to support why production of silk is limited. [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) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the line given below:
I don't know what it is. It feel like an incredibly lucky day for me.

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

[1]

(II) Choose the correct option to fill in the blank.
Saira was disappointed when she saw there was _____ food left to serve the guests. [1]

(a) few (b) least (c) any (d) little

(III) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the brackets, for the given portion of a letter.
Dear sir,
This is to inform you that our school has _____ (decide) to place an order with your company for computers. [1]

(IV) Juhi asked her friend the following question:
"Are you prepared for the mathematics test next week?"
Report it correctly to complete the following sentence.
Juhi asked her friend _____. [1]

(V) Report the dialogue between a flight attendant and a passenger by filling in the blank.
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]

(VI) Abhilash and Neha had a conversation about a school project. Report Abhilash's question.
Abhilash: Is your best friend helping you in this venture? [1]

(VII) Select the correct option to complete the reporting of the given dialogue.
Mother: Where were you last evening?
Son: I was at the library, preparing for my exams.
The mother asked her son where he had been the previous evening, and the son replied that _____.
[1]

(a) he had been at the library, preparing for his exams (b) he is at the library, preparing for his exams (c) he was at the library, prepared for his exams (d) he had been at the library, prepares for his exams

(VIII) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line taken from an article about growing obesity.
Obesity in teenage children is a major concern between parents today.

Option No.	Error	Correction
(A)	teenage	teenagers
(B)	concern	concerns
(C)	between	among
(D)	today	now

[1]

(IX) Report the doctor's statement.
Doctor: "You should reduce your sugar intake and exercise regularly." [1]

(X) Read the given sentence from a marketing report. Identify the error and supply the correction in the given format.
The company continues to strives tirelessly to meet customer demands.

Error	Correction
_____	_____

[1]

(XI) The given question has an error. Select the option that correctly identifies the error and the correction:
What among these books have you read before?

No.	Error	Correction
A.	What	Which
B.	among	between
C.	these	this
D.	have	has

[1]

(XII) Complete the given narrative with the correct option to fill in the blank.
Yesterday, Tanu walked to the park and _____ a breezy evening. [1]

(a) to enjoying (b) will enjoy (c) enjoyed (d) enjoys

WRITING (10 marks)

Q4. A. There are daily reports in the newspaper of fatal accidents due to reckless driving and road rage. Write a letter to the Commissioner of Traffic Police in about 120 words suggesting the need to take stricter action against the offenders. Recommend the use of social media to launch awareness campaigns about the implications of irresponsible driving. You are Shantanu/Savita, living at B-108 Krishi Apartments. **[5]**

OR

(B) As Vaibhav, the Club in-charge of your school's Ecology Club, you strongly believe in the importance of starting Eco-Clubs in schools in the rural areas surrounding your city to promote the preservation and conservation of nature. Write a letter to the Education Secretary of your city, in about 120 words, highlighting the significance of ecological awareness and suggesting the need to establish Eco-Clubs in these schools.

Q5. A. The effects of technology on education have been profound and multifaceted, influencing both teaching and learning in various ways. The data below shows the rising enrolment in online courses over the years. Analyze the data and write an analytical paragraph, in about 120 words, about how technology has transformed teaching and learning by shifting from classrooms to digital devices. Discuss benefits such as access to information and challenges like digital divide.

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

[5]

OR

(B) Read the product details mentioned on an e-commerce website for a student study desk organiser.

- Multi-compartment storage with dedicated slots for books, stationery, and digital devices
- Eco-friendly bamboo wood construction with non-toxic finish
- Adjustable shelves to accommodate different item sizes
- Compact yet spacious design suitable for a small room space
- Anti-slip base prevents sliding on smooth surfaces
- Available in natural wood and light oak finishes
- Backed by a 5-year durability guarantee

Now, analyse why this desk organiser would be a good purchase for students. Write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words, considering factors such as its sustainability, organisational efficiency, optimal use of space, functionality, and student appeal.

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

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

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

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

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

OR

(B)

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

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

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

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

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

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

(A)

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!)*

(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]

OR

(B)

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

(i) What does the repetition of the word 'merrily' suggest in the context of the ball's movement?
(a) the ball's cheerful, carefree bounce contrasts sharply with the boy's sudden loss

(b) the ball is moving slowly and reluctantly
(c) the ball is returning to the boy
(d) the boy is laughing at the ball [1]

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

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

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

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

(I) Explain the reasons for Rajvir's excitement on seeing the plantation and Pranjol's lack of enthusiasm.

(II) Explain why Amanda wants to be an orphan. Refer to the given lines. Answer in about 40–50 words.

(III) The young seagull's fear of flying and reluctance to leave his ledge contribute to the theme of independence and courage in the story. Justify.

(IV) 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.

(V) How does Chubukov's reaction to Lomov's marriage proposal reflect his priorities and values?

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

(I) Analyse how the writer uses irony throughout the story to convey the message that vanity and materialism lead to one's downfall.

(II) Griffin's brilliance as a man of science fades before his darker traits. Comment.

(III) Had Bholi not been educated, could she have refused to marry Bishamber? Comment.

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

(A) 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.

OR

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

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

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

OR

(B) Evaluate how Griffin's character is shaped by a combination of personal ambition, the unintended consequences of his scientific pursuits, and the reactions of the society he faces.

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