CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

CBSE 2026-27

English Language and Literature

Subject Code: 184 | Class X

Solutions

Sample Question Paper – Set 4

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) Water is one of the most essential resources on Earth, yet it is often taken for granted. Despite its abundance, the reality is that only a small fraction of the world's water is fresh and available for human use. With increasing populations, climate change, and industrial demands, the pressure on our water resources is growing. This makes water conservation not just a collective responsibility but a crucial individual duty. Each person's effort towards conserving water can significantly impact the preservation of this vital resource for future generations.

(2) The concept of water conservation involves both reducing wastage and protecting water sources from pollution. On an individual level, simple habits play a significant role. For instance, turning off the tap while brushing teeth can save up to 200 gallons of water per month for a single household. Similarly, fixing leaky taps and pipes immediately prevents the loss of thousands of litres annually. Such small yet consistent actions demonstrate how personal discipline directly contributes to resource preservation.

(3) Beyond the household, communities and institutions hold considerable power to effect change. Rainwater harvesting systems in schools and public buildings can replenish groundwater levels and reduce dependence on municipal supply. Moreover, awareness campaigns can transform attitudes, making conservation a shared social value rather than a compulsory regulation. When people understand the 'why' behind an action, they are more likely to adopt and sustain it.

(4) Agriculture, which consumes nearly 70% of the world's freshwater, presents both a challenge and an opportunity. Modern irrigation techniques such as drip irrigation deliver water directly to plant roots, minimising evaporation and runoff. Farmers who adopt such methods not only conserve water but also improve crop yields — a rare alignment of economic and environmental interests.

(5) Critics sometimes argue that individual efforts are too small to matter against the scale of global water scarcity. However, this view underestimates the cumulative power of collective action. Movements across cities and villages have shown that when households, farmers and industries each do their part, the difference is measurable. Every drop saved is a drop available for someone else.

(6) Ultimately, water conservation is not about sacrifice; it is about mindfulness. It asks us to value what flows freely from our taps, to recognise the invisible cost of every wasted litre, and to act — in our kitchens, fields and factories — as guardians of a resource that belongs to everyone and to no one. *(420 words)*

(i) Why does the writer call water conservation 'a crucial individual duty' rather than only a collective responsibility? (Paragraph 1) [1]

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

Assertion (A): Turning off the tap while brushing teeth saves significant water.

Reason (R): Individual discipline directly contributes to resource preservation.

(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 the correct option from the two given:

Rainwater harvesting systems in schools and public buildings are valuable because they _____. (paragraph 3)

(a) replenish groundwater levels and reduce dependence on municipal supply.
(b) transform attitudes by making conservation a compulsory regulation. [1]

(iv) The writer notes that drip irrigation creates 'a rare alignment of economic and environmental interests'. Explain this statement in about 40 words. (Paragraph 4) [2]

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

Agriculture consumes nearly 70% of the world's freshwater. (Paragraph 4) [1]

(vi) Complete the analogy with a word or phrase from the passage:

wasteful : mindful :: _____ : guardian [1]

(vii) The writer counters the critics' argument in paragraph 5 by _____.
(a) dismissing individual efforts as ineffective
(b) citing the cumulative power of collective action
(c) proving global water scarcity is exaggerated
(d) blaming industries for water pollution [1]

(viii) What is the author's overall message in the concluding paragraph? Rationalise in about 40 words. [2]

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

Passage:

Rate of Internet Reach in India: 2014–2024

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

(2) Internet availability and accessibility

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

(3) Digital living

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

Internet reach and connections over time:

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

(243 words)

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

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

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

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

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

(iii) Identify the word that indicates that internet reach is 'comparatively' low. (Paragraph 1) [1]

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

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

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

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

(vii) Complete the following with a suitable reason:

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

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

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

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) Choose the correct option to fill in the blank:
There is _____ water in the tank; it will finish before we reach home. [1]

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

(II) Identify and correct the error in the given line from a technical report:
Neither the software developers nor the project manager were aware of the compatibility issues.

Error	Correction
_____	_____

[1]

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

(IV) Identify the error and suggest the correction.
Each of the participants in the Science Fair have been given a set of guidelines to follow during the competition.

Error	Correction
_____	_____

[1]

(V) Read the given statement.
They said to the guide, "We'd love to come here again next year."
Report it correctly by completing the following.
They told the guide that _____. [1]

(VI) The following line has an error, which is underlined. Select the correct option from the choices given below to replace the underlined word.
She may play the piano when she was only eleven. [1]

(a) could (b) ought to (c) must (d) should

(VII) Report the dialogue between an employer and Raman. Complete the sentence using reported speech.
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]

(VIII) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the conclusion of a letter of placing order:
There would be no compromise _____ the quality of items supplied. [1]

(a) regards (b) regard (c) regardless (d) regarding

(IX) Choose the correct option to fill in the blank in the given line from a short story:
Unlike the previous month, he _____ away for quite some time that month. [1]

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

(X) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the brackets, for the given portion of a letter.
'Thank you for _____ (consider) my application. I look forward to working in your organization.' [1]

(XI) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the sentence taken from a book about 'Birds'.
Each year, thousands of birds _____ southwards to avoid the harsh winter, embarking on an incredible journey that spans thousands of miles. [1]

(a) migrate (b) immigrate (c) emigrate (d) migrates

(XII) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the given sentence from a health advisory:
Patients with fever _____ take plenty of fluids and rest. [1]

(a) can (b) should (c) may (d) would

WRITING (10 marks)

Q4. A. You are Maya Nair, a concerned resident of Green View Colony, Guwahati. You feel that your colony lacks adequate recreational and community spaces for residents of all age groups. The existing facilities are insufficient. Write a letter to the Secretary of your Resident Welfare Association (RWA) in 120 words, highlighting the need for establishing a community centre in the colony explaining how it will benefit the residents. **[5]**

OR

(B) 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.

Q5. A. In the past few years, the teaching-learning process has taken a leap and gone beyond the four walls of the classroom. Today, it has become possible to learn not just by sitting in a physical classroom, but from anywhere. Given below is a chart depicting the differences between E-learning and Classroom learning. Write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words, assessing the benefits and drawbacks of both, by selecting features that support your analysis.

E-learning	**Classroom learning**
accessible anytime, anywhere	same place, same time
at your own pace	caters to the needs of the class
no travel costs, saves time	transportation cost and time consuming

[5]

OR

(B) 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.

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)	

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

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

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

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

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

OR

(B)

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)

(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]

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

(A)

Extract: Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of bears,
And Ink and Blink chased lions down the stairs,
Mustard was as brave as a tiger in a rage,
But Custard cried for a nice safe cage. *(The Tale of Custard the Dragon)*

(i) Comment upon the contrast that is reflected in the last two lines of the extract. [1]

(ii) While describing Ink and Blink, the speaker says that they could chase lions down the stairs. By saying so, he is revealing the _____ characteristic of their personality. (Fill in with one word.) [1]

(iii) Name the rhyme scheme used in these four lines. [1]

(iv) Comment on the poet's use of language in these lines in about 40 words. [2]

OR

(B)

Extract: The leaves strain toward the glass
small twigs stiff with exertion
long-cramped boughs shuffling under the roof
like newly discharged patients
half-dazed, moving
to the clinic doors. *(The Trees)*

(i) The boughs are compared to newly discharged patients because they appear _____ and unsteady. [1]

(ii) The word 'exertion' in 'small twigs stiff with exertion' suggests that the twigs are:
(a) relaxed
(b) making a great effort
(c) asleep
(d) decaying [1]

(iii) Name the figure of speech in the line 'like newly discharged patients'. [1]

(iv) How does the comparison between the boughs and newly discharged patients contribute to the theme of the poem? 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) Coorg is known as "the land of rolling hills". Describe its picturesque beauty and biodiversity.

(II) How does the short structure of the poem '*Dust of Snow*' enhance its message about emotional renewal? Support your answer briefly.

(III) 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".

(IV) In what ways does the contrast between the tiger's natural habitat and its confinement in a concrete cell enhance the poem's exploration of captivity and its consequences for wild animals? Answer in about 40–50 words.

(V) Anne says, "Paper has more patience than people." What does this statement reveal about her loneliness?

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

(I) Why does Horace take off his gloves to give the young lady his lighter? What does this action tell us about his state of mind at that crucial moment?

(II) How does Matilda's desire for material wealth drive the plot of *The Necklace*?

(III) Why did Richard Ebright raise a flock of butterflies? What did he do with them?

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

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

OR

(B) How does Lencho's faith in God, as shown in "A Letter to God", contrast with the scepticism of Kisa Gotami in "The Sermon at Benares"? Support your answer with details from the two texts. (100–120 words)

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

(A) "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?

OR

(B) Hari Singh says — "He knew it but neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything." Anil successfully addressed the situation by not addressing it at all. Elaborate, based on your reading of *The Thief's Story*.

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