CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

CBSE 2026-27

English Language and Literature

Subject Code: 184 | Class X

Solutions

Sample Question Paper – Set 5

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) Have you ever really looked at a toy store shelf and wondered what you're actually looking at? Rows upon rows of plastic products — bright, shiny, and visually appealing. We barely question them anymore. But here's a question worth asking: does the type of toy we choose really matter? The answer might surprise you. It turns out that choosing between a conventional plastic toy and an eco-friendly alternative is about far more than just grabbing something off the shelf.

(2) Let's be honest — plastic toys are everywhere. They have been the default choice for generations, and there's a reason: they're affordable, they're designed to grab attention, and they work. However, what exactly are we getting when we buy a mass-produced plastic toy? Often, we're getting something made with chemicals like BPA and lead, substances that make manufacturing cheaper. These aren't just abstract risks floating in the background. They're real concerns that affect real people, especially children who interact with these toys daily.

(3) This is precisely why eco-friendly toys matter so much. Crafted from organic cotton, sustainable wood, and recycled materials, they ask a fundamental question: what if toys could be safe, engaging, and environmentally responsible all at once? When we choose these alternatives, we're not just buying a toy — we're making a statement about what we value.

(4) Ever noticed how a wooden block can keep a child entertained for hours, while some plastic gadget loses its appeal in minutes? There's a reason for that. Eco-friendly toys often engage children's minds differently. Natural materials offer something special — rich textures, varied tactile experiences, and a kind of sensory richness that engages the brain in deeper ways. A wooden building set doesn't just entertain; it challenges children to think, problem-solve, and create. It demands imagination in a way that pre-programmed, plastic alternatives never can.

(5) Think about the typical lifespan of a plastic toy. It breaks, it ends up in landfills, and it's replaced. Eco-friendly toys, however, are designed to survive. They're built to last years, to be passed along, to become keepsakes rather than waste. This durability speaks volumes about the difference between toys made purely for profit and toys made with purpose.

(6) Ultimately, the choice between conventional and eco-friendly toys reflects something deeper: how we think about consumption itself. Do we want a world where toys are disposable trinkets, or do we want objects that matter — that are safe, engaging, and kind to the planet? It's not just about toys. It's about the choices we make every single day and what those choices say about who we are and what kind of future we're building.

(435 words)

(i) In Paragraph 1, what does the phrase 'rows upon rows of plastic products' emphasise? [1]

(ii) Complete the following with the correct option from the two given.

When the writer says, 'These aren't just abstract risks floating in the background', he refers to _____. (paragraph 2)

(a) the potential health hazards present in mass-produced plastic toys that consumers often ignore or are unaware of.

(b) the general concerns about toy safety that exist in society but don't directly affect individual purchasing decisions. [1]

(iii) The writer mentions, 'organic cotton, sustainable wood, and recycled materials' in paragraph 3. Which of the following is an example of 'recycled material'?

(a) Hand spun clothes certified by environmental organisations

(b) Cotton grown without pesticides or synthetic fertilisers

(c) Plastic bottles processed and converted into shoes

(d) Wood treated with chemical preservatives to extend lifespan [1]

(iv) In paragraphs 2 and 3, the writer contrasts the characteristics of plastic toys with eco-friendly toys. What does this comparison reveal about the writer's perspective on consumer responsibility? [2]

(v) Identify whether the following statement is True or False. (Paragraph 4)

The sensory richness of eco-friendly toys primarily enhances children's entertainment value rather than their cognitive development. [1]

(vi) Complete the analogy by selecting the correct option.

disposable trinkets : landfills :: _____ : _____

(a) eco-friendly toys : environmental responsibility

(b) meaningful keepsakes : future generations [1]

(vii) Read the statements (i)–(v) given below and select the option that correctly classifies them as Facts (F) or Opinions (O).

(i) BPA and lead are used in the production of mass-produced plastic toys.

(ii) Plastic toys are affordable and attractive, which makes them popular.

(iii) Eco-friendly toys are designed to survive longer and are not discarded as waste.

(iv) Wooden toys engage children's minds in deeper and more meaningful ways than plastic toys.

(v) The choice between plastic and eco-friendly toys is about mindful consumption.

(a) (i) O (ii) O (iii) F (iv) F (v) O

(b) (i) F (ii) F (iii) O (iv) O (v) F

(c) (i) O (ii) F (iii) F (iv) O (v) O

(d) (i) F (ii) O (iii) F (iv) O (v) O [1]

(viii) What might be the author's purpose of asking rhetorical questions throughout the passage? [2]

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

Passage:

The Rise of Electric Vehicles in India

(1) Electric Vehicles (EVs) are gaining significant traction globally. In India, the push for EVs is driven by concerns over air pollution, rising fuel costs and government's commitment to reducing carbon emissions. The Indian Government has set ambitious targets for EV adoption, aiming for 30% of private cars, 70% of commercial vehicles, and 80% of two- and three-wheelers to be electric by 2030.

(2) The benefits of EVs extend beyond environmental impact: lower running cost due to cheaper electricity, reduced maintenance because of fewer moving parts, and lower noise pollution in urban areas.

(3) Despite the promising outlook, the EV industry in India faces several challenges currently. While public charging stations are slowly increasing, their availability, especially in semi-urban and rural areas, remains a bottleneck. The initial high purchase cost of EVs and concerns about range — or the fear of running out of charge — are other causes of anxiety.

(4) To overcome these hurdles, the government is offering subsidies and tax benefits to make EVs more affordable. Private companies are investing in new EV models with improved battery technology for longer ranges, and battery swapping technology is also being explored as a quick alternative to traditional charging.

(5) The Indian EV market is witnessing rapid growth, with sales figures steadily climbing. In 2023, India recorded sales of over 1.5 million EVs, a significant jump from previous years. Two-wheelers dominated the sales, followed by three-wheelers and then passenger cars. States like Maharashtra, Delhi, and Karnataka have emerged as leaders in EV adoption.

EV adoption targets by 2030:

Vehicle type	Target
Private cars	30%
Commercial vehicles	70%
Two- and three-wheelers	80%

(245 words)

(i) Electric vehicles offer multiple benefits 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: EVs are gaining traction in India.

Reason: The Indian government is committed to reducing carbon emissions.

(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) Justify the following statement:

Despite governmental support, the initial cost of EVs remains a challenge for consumers. [1]

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

The silent operation of EVs contributes to better urban living because _____. [1]

(v) 'In 2023, India recorded sales of over 1.5 million EVs, a significant jump from previous years.' State any one inference that can be drawn from the above statement. [1]

(vi) According to the passage, what is 'range anxiety' in the context of electric vehicles? [1]

(vii) Based on the given text, which type of EV dominated sales in India in 2023? [1]

(viii) Complete the sentence suitably:

To address the challenge of charging infrastructure, various initiatives are being undertaken, such as _____. [1]

(ix) Give one reason to support why the adoption of EVs is slow in some parts of India. [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 by choosing the correct option, to complete an official announcement.
Attention all prefects,
Please be informed that the deadline for submitting your registrations for participation in the Art Exhibition has been extended; _____ *(that / these / this)* should be communicated to all students of classes IX–X. [1]

(II) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option:
_____ student in the class was given a certificate of participation. [1]

(a) Every (b) Each of (c) All (d) Few

(III) Detect the error and supply the correction for the given newspaper report on a proposal by a Member of Advisory Board:
After the meeting it was obvious that most stakeholders would not support proposals.
Select the option with the error and its correction. [1]

(a) this – that (b) that – the (c) the – these (d) these – this

(IV) The given sentence has an error. Select the option that correctly identifies the error and supplies the correction:
The meeting was attended by all the participants, most of whom were already seated between the hall.

No.	Error	Correction
A.	attended	attend
B.	most	more
C.	between	among
D.	seated	seat

[1]

(V) Select the correct option to complete the given sentence from a sports commentary:
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

(VI) Identify and correct the error in the given line taken from an online news report.
Nearly most shop was closed for the public holiday.

Option No.	Error	Correction
A	most	every
B	shop	shops
C	was	were
D	the	that

[1]

(VII) Report the following by completing the sentence correctly.
"Don't try mending the trousers yourself," she warned him.
She warned him _____. [1]

(VIII) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the brackets, for the given portion of a report.
The group _____ (walk) for hours through forests and hills in Mexico before it reached the barbed wire fence, marking the boundary of the forest. [1]

(IX) Select the correct option to complete the sentence from an article on career counselling:
To master any skill, a learner _____ practise consistently for years. [1]

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

(X) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option from the brackets:
Anita _____ *(ought to/would/have to)* likely complete the project on time as her team is collaborating effectively. [1]

(XI) Fill in the blank with the correct form of verb given in the brackets.
I'm so happy to see my plants again! They _____ (grow) so much since I last saw them. [1]

(XII) Read the given sentence from a self-help book. Identify the error and supply the correction in the given format:
To identifying your goal is the biggest step in your success story.

Error	Correction
_____	_____

[1]

WRITING (10 marks)

Q4. A. You are Nandan Banerjee, a concerned citizen. Write a letter to the Editor of a local daily raising concern over the open burning of hospital and domestic waste in your city. Draw attention to its serious health implications, the need for scientific waste disposal practices and public awareness. **[5]**

OR

(B) 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.

Q5. A. Improvements in sports infrastructure with a focus on multi-purpose sustainable facilities as well as the integration of technology along with a grassroot centric approach is the key to bring Indian athletes on the world stage.

Write an analytical paragraph on the above statement in about 120 words, expressing your views on how improved infrastructure can help Indian athletes win accolades for the nation. **[5]**

OR

(B) The Pros and Cons of using the internet in everyday life are numerous. The internet is like a double-edged sword. Based on the information provided in the table below, write an analytical paragraph on the topic 'Advantages and Disadvantages of the Internet' in about 120 words.

Pros	**Cons**
Connectivity	Data Security
Communication speed and versatile working	Social Isolation

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: 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)*

(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]

OR

(B)

Extract: "It's not my balcony," Ausable said with extreme irritation. "It belongs to the next apartment." He glanced explanatorily at Fowler. "You see," he said, "this room used to be part of a large unit, and the next room — through that door there — used to be the living room. It had the balcony, which extends under my window now. You can get onto it from the empty room two doors down — and somebody did, last month. The management promised to block it off. But they haven't." *(The Midnight Visitor)*

(i) Ausable invented the story of the balcony because he wanted _____. [1]

(ii) Ausable spoke "with extreme irritation" because:
(a) he was truly angry with the management
(b) irritation made the complaint sound genuine
(c) Max had irritated him
(d) Fowler asked too many questions [1]

(iii) The balcony story made Max believe that he could _____. [1]

(iv) How does Ausable's detailed explanation make his invention believable? 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: 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)*

(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]

OR

(B)

Extract: The fog comes
on little cat feet.
It sits looking
over harbour and city
on silent haunches
and then moves on. *(Fog)*

(i) The fog is compared to a cat because it:
(a) is loud and aggressive
(b) moves silently and stealthily
(c) is cold and harmful
(d) destroys everything in its path [1]

(ii) The phrase 'on silent haunches' suggests that the fog is _____ and watchful. [1]

(iii) The fog 'sits looking over harbour and city' suggests that the fog is:
(a) hiding from people
(b) observing and overseeing the city
(c) destroying the city
(d) moving very fast [1]

(iv) How does the line 'and then moves on' reflect the transient nature of the fog? 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) How does the ignorance about Mijbil as a creature in the urban environment of London reveal insights about people's perceptions of animals?

(II) Explain why the poet personally holds the conviction that the world will primarily end in fire.

(III) Kitty was a trusted friend to Anne. Elaborate.

(IV) How does the poem use the 'cat metaphor' to characterise the fog's nature? Answer in about 40–50 words.

(V) Bread plays a pivotal role in Goan culture and tradition. Support the statement with evidence from the text.

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

(I) Presence of mind is the secret weapon of a secret agent. Justify this statement in the context of *The Midnight Visitor*.

(II) Why do you think Anil did not hand Hari Singh over to the police even though he had discovered the theft?

(III) How did Ausable get rid of Max without any weapon or physical fight?

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

(A) 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?

OR

(B) Examine the similarities and differences between the tiger in '*A Tiger in the Zoo*' and the dragon in '*The Tale of Custard the Dragon*'. 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) How did the lady in red manage to outsmart and outmaneuver the other thief, Horace Danby, by robbing the safe without leaving a single fingerprint?

OR

(B) Trace the journey of Richard Ebright from a curious child with a butterfly collection to a young man who startled the scientific world.

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