CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

CBSE 2026-27

English Language and Literature

Subject Code: 184 | Class X

Solutions

Sample Question Paper – Set 6

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) With the growing focus on sustainable living, the importance of kitchen gardens in urban regions has garnered greater acknowledgement. One significance of kitchen gardens in urban areas is their role in promoting food security. Rapid urbanization has led to increased distances between food production centres and urban settlements, resulting in longer food supply chains and a decrease in the freshness and nutritional value of food.

(2) By having a kitchen garden, urban dwellers can grow their own fresh produce at home, making good use of empty tins, old utensils, and clay flower pots, ensuring a constant supply of nutritious food for themselves and their families. This activity not only saves money and time but can also provide a healthy, practical, and environmentally friendly hobby for the whole family.

(3) Not only do kitchen gardens contribute to food security, but they also play a crucial role in environmental sustainability. Traditional agricultural practices often involve the use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and intensive irrigation methods, which may have adverse effects on the environment. However, kitchen gardens promote organic farming, reducing the use of harmful chemicals and preserving soil health.

(4) In addition to fostering a sustainable environment, kitchen gardens provide numerous health benefits to urban dwellers. The availability of fresh and organic produce from the garden ensures a higher intake of essential nutrients, vitamins, and minerals, promoting better overall health and well-being.

(5) Furthermore, kitchen gardens have proven to be an effective tool for education and community development. They provide an opportunity for individuals to reconnect with nature and learn about the basics of agriculture. Besides providing fruits and vegetables, gardening provides an aesthetic and therapeutic exercise that helps relieve stress. The physical activity involved in tending to a garden helps individuals stay active, reducing the risk of obesity and related health issues.

(6) By involving children in gardening activities, they can develop an appreciation for the environment and learn essential life skills. Moreover, kitchen gardens can also serve as a platform for community engagement, fostering social interactions and promoting a sense of belonging among urban residents.

(7) Despite the numerous benefits of kitchen gardens, establishing and maintaining one in urban areas can be challenging. Limited space, lack of sunlight, and soil quality issues are common obstacles that urban gardeners face. However, innovative solutions such as vertical gardening, hydroponics, and rooftop gardens have emerged to overcome these challenges.

(8) It is imperative to provide support and resources to encourage urban gardening initiatives as this can transform urban areas into sustainable havens where residents not only live but thrive in harmony with nature. *(428 words)*

(i) What does the writer's use of the phrase 'kitchen gardens in urban regions have garnered greater acknowledgement' suggest about kitchen gardening today? (Paragraph 1)

(a) It has reduced inflation.
(b) It is an expensive hobby.
(c) It provides nutritious food.
(d) It does not minimize adverse effects on the environment. [1]

(ii) Complete the following with a suitable explanation:

Growing a kitchen garden is cost effective because _____. (Paragraph 2) [1]

(iii) Identify two differences between the methods adopted in traditional farming and kitchen gardens. (Paragraph 3) [2]

(iv) Substitute the underlined word with the correct word from Paragraph 4:

The local residents' *nurturing* of their surrounding flora and fauna helps to create awareness about civic responsibilities. [1]

(v) Tending to a kitchen garden has many health benefits. Explain in about 40 words. (Paragraphs 4 and 5) [2]

(vi) Select the option that best reflects the concept that kitchen gardening is an effective educational tool for children. (Paragraph 5)
(a) It contributes to effective community development.
(b) It helps develop sensitivity and appreciation for nature. [1]

(vii) What hurdles do kitchen gardeners face? Mention any two. (Paragraph 7) [1]

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

Kitchen gardening should be practised by everyone living in the cities. [1]

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

Passage:

(1) The National Education Policy 2020 proposes the revision and revamping of all aspects of education, including the educational structure, regulations and governance, to create a new system which is aligned with the aspirational goals of 21st century students. According to the policy, by 2025, at least 50% of learners through the school and higher education system shall have exposure to skill education, for which a clear action plan with targets and timelines are to be developed.

(2) The policy aims to overcome the social status hierarchy associated with skill education and integration of skill education into mainstream education in all educational institutions in a phased manner. Beginning with skill exposure at early ages in middle and secondary school, quality skill education will be integrated smoothly into school and higher education.

(3) Every child will learn at least one skill and is exposed to several more. This would lead to emphasizing the dignity of labour and importance of various vocations involving Indian arts and artisanship.

(4) The development of skill capacities will go hand-in-hand with the development of 'academic' or other capacities. To achieve this objective, secondary schools will have to collaborate with Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), Polytechnics, Local Industry, etc. Skill labs will also be set up and created in the schools in a Hub and Spoke model, which will allow other schools to use the facility. Higher education institutions will offer skill education either on their own or in partnership with industry and other institutions.

The global scenario — percentage of students in skill education:

Country	Students in skill education
South Korea	96%
Germany	75%
USA	52%
Denmark	50%
Egypt	30
India	5%

(249 words)

(i) Based on the reading of the extract, list two objectives of NEP 2020. [2]

(ii) Fill in the blank with the appropriate option from those given in the brackets, based on the understanding of paragraph 4:

The statement 'The development of skill capacities will go hand-in-hand with the development of academic or other capacities' is a _____ (fact / opinion) because it is a _____ (subjective judgement / objective detail). [1]

(iii) Select the option that corresponds to the meaning of the statement given below:

"According to the policy, by 2025, at least 50% of learners through the school and higher education system shall have exposure to skill education."

(a) Maximum 50% learners shall have exposure to technical education.
(b) Minimum 50% learners shall have exposure to technical education.
(c) Minimum 50% learners shall have exposure to skill education.
(d) Maximum 50% learners shall have exposure to skill education. [1]

(iv) Based on the understanding of the passage, complete the following statement appropriately:

The benefit of the Hub and Spoke model will be _____. [1]

(v) Complete the following analogy correctly with a word/phrase from paragraph 3:

Racism : condemn :: _____ : respect [1]

(vi) As per the table, which country has the maximum percentage of students in skill education? [1]

(vii) Fill in the following blank choosing the most appropriate option:

As per NEP 2020, skill exposure will begin at _____.

(a) middle and secondary school (b) primary school (c) higher school (d) senior secondary school [1]

(viii) Justify the statement:

'The NEP will create an awareness and appreciation of Indian arts and artisanship.' [1]

(ix) Based on the table, what is the gap between India's share of students in skill education and that of the USA? [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) Identify the error and supply the correction for the following note in a hair salon's instruction manual:
All tools and frequently touched surfaces must be disinfect after each client's treatment.

Error	Correction
_____	_____

[1]

(II) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the brackets:
Several new species of plants have recently _____. *(discover)* [1]

(a) discovered (b) been discovered (c) discover (d) discovering

(III) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the sentence from a health article:
The human body needs _____ amount of rest daily to function properly. [1]

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

(IV) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option in the bracket, to complete the sentence:
The revised meeting agenda is attached and _____ *(this / those / it)* needs to be emailed to all participants before the meeting. [1]

(V) The given question has an error. Select the option that correctly identifies the error and the correction.
Which kind of person does something like that?

No.	Error	Correction
A.	Which	What
B.	kind	kinds
C.	something	somethings
D.	that	this

[1]

(VI) Complete the given school announcement by selecting the correct option to fill in the blank.
Good news, everyone! Our school's robotics team has successfully _____ a place in the semi-finals. [1]

(a) securing (b) secured (c) will secure (d) had secured

(VII) Identify the error and supply correction for the given sentence from an e-commerce website's return policy.
We offers a 30-day return policy on all unopened products purchased from our websites.

Error	Correction
_____	_____

[1]

(VIII) Choose the correct option to complete the statement.
I feel certain that Soham _____ in his new business because he works so hard all the time. [1]

(a) is succeeding (b) will succeed (c) has succeeded (d) will be succeeding

(IX) Identify the error in the given sentence from a school notice and supply the correction:
The list of selected students are displayed on the notice board.

Error	Correction
_____	_____

[1]

(X) Complete the given opinion by filling the blank with the correct option:
The experience of watching the movie left me _____ grateful for knowing the importance of being empathetic to others. [1]

(a) having felt (b) feeling (c) felt (d) feels

(XI) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the given sentence from the school's safety policy:
Students _____ *(can/must/shouldn't)* wear their identity cards while on the school premises. [1]

(XII) Fill in the blank to complete the teacher's advice by choosing the correct option from those given in brackets:
If you practice regularly, you _____ win the quiz competition next month. *(might / must)* [1]

WRITING (10 marks)

Q4. A. You are Vaidehi/Vishal, a gym trainer. You want to volunteer an hour every weekend to provide free yoga classes to the residents of your colony in the community park. Write a letter to the President of the RWA, Purv Colony, Vrikshbagh, telling him about your plan and its advantages and requesting him to grant you permission to do so. **[5]**

OR

(B) You are Aruna/Arjun, C.C.A. incharge of St. Joseph's High School, Pune Cantt. You have read an advertisement by the National Tourist Corporation, offering excellent prices for group tours. Write a letter to enquire about the following: duration of tour; destinations covered; boarding and lodging arrangements; mode of transport; total charges and concessions for school groups.

Q5. A. The table below shows the results of a survey on the modes of transport used by students of your school to commute daily. Write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words analysing the data, comparing the shares and concluding with what the school can do to make commuting safer and greener.

Mode of transport	**Percentage of students**
School bus	40
Private car (drop/pick-up)	30
Bicycle	15
Public transport (metro/bus)	10
Walking	5

[5]

OR

(B) A survey was conducted in your school to find out how students of Class X spend their weekly leisure time. Study the data and write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words analysing the trends, drawing comparisons and concluding whether the balance is healthy.

Activity	**Hours per week**
Screen time (social media, gaming, videos)	14
Outdoor sports	5
Reading for pleasure	3
Hobbies (music, art, craft)	4
Family time	6

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: Not a leaf remained on the trees. The corn was totally destroyed. The flowers were gone from the plants. Lencho's soul was filled with sadness. When the storm had passed, he stood in the middle of the field and said to his sons, ''A plague of locusts would have left more than this. The hail has left nothing. This year we will have no corn.''
That night was a sorrowful one.
''All our work, for nothing.'' ''There's no one who can help us.'' ''We'll all go hungry this year.'' *(A Letter to God)*

(i) Lencho's words "The hail has left nothing" show that he felt _____ about the future of his farm. [1]

(ii) Why did Lencho say, "A plague of locusts would have left more than this"?
(a) Locusts destroy only leaves
(b) Locusts would have left some crop, but the hail had left nothing
(c) Locusts are more dangerous than hail
(d) He wanted his sons to fear locusts [1]

(iii) The family's mood after the storm can be described in one word as _____. [1]

(iv) What does the family's despair, "We'll all go hungry this year", reveal about their dependence on the harvest? Answer in about 40 words. [2]

OR

(B)

Extract: Inside the clouds, everything was suddenly black. It was impossible to see anything outside the aeroplane. The old aeroplane jumped and twisted in the air. I looked at the compass. I couldn't believe my eyes the compass was turning round and round and round. It was dead. It would not work. The other instruments were suddenly dead, too. I tried the radio. ''Paris Control? Paris Control? Can you hear me?'' There was no answer. The radio was dead too. I had no radio, no compass, and I could not see where I was. I was lost in the storm. *(The Black Aeroplane)*

(i) As soon as the pilot was inside the cloud, _____.
(a) his ears got blocked
(b) he choked with fear
(c) his vision was obstructed
(d) he was jumping up and down [1]

(ii) The devices in the aeroplane were _____ (one word). [1]

(iii) The pilot could not see where he was because he was lost in the _____. [1]

(iv) What does the pilot's reaction to the failing instruments reveal about his mental state? 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: 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]

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

(I) Family played a vital role in the first flight of the young seagull. Give examples to substantiate this statement.

(II) What happens to the house when the trees move out of it? Comment. Answer in about 40–50 words.

(III) Explain how the description of the devastation caused by the hailstorm reflects the sadness within Lencho.

(IV) How does 'The Ball Poem' explore the theme of loss and its profound impact on an individual's emotional state and perception of the world? Answer in about 40–50 words.

(V) What was Chubukov's reaction when he discovered the actual purpose behind Lomov's visit?

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

(I) Mr Herriot knew his patients and their owners "too well". How does this knowledge help him in his treatment of Tricki and Mrs Pumphrey?

(II) Ausable remained one step ahead of Max throughout. Elaborate.

(III) How does *The Book that Saved the Earth* include elements of satirical science fiction?

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

(A) "No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background or his religion." Do you agree? Elaborate on the basis of the chapter. (100–120 words)

OR

(B) Examine the role of Nature in the poems '*Dust of Snow*' and '*Fog*'. 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) "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) 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.

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