CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

CBSE 2026-27

English Language and Literature

Subject Code: 184 | Class X

Solutions

Sample Question Paper – Set 7

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) Plastic pollution has become one of the most pressing environmental issues, as rapidly increasing production of disposable plastic products is most visible in developing Asian and African nations, where garbage collection systems are often inefficient or nonexistent. But the developed world, especially in countries with low recycling rates, also has trouble properly collecting discarded plastics. Plastic trash has become so ubiquitous that it has prompted efforts to write a global treaty negotiated by the United Nations.

(2) Plastics made from fossil fuels are just over a century old. Production and development of thousands of new plastic products accelerated after World War II. It transformed the modern age so much that life without plastics is unrecognizable today. Plastics revolutionized medicine with life-saving devices, made space travel possible, lightened cars and jets, saving fuel and pollution, and saved lives with helmets, incubators, and equipment for clean drinking water.

(3) The conveniences plastics offer, however, led to a throw-away culture: today, single-use plastics account for 40 percent of the plastic produced every year. Many of these products, such as plastic bags and food wrappers, have a lifespan of mere minutes to hours, yet they may persist in the environment for hundreds of years.

(4) Most of the plastic trash in the oceans is carried to sea by major rivers, which act as conveyor belts, picking up more and more trash as they move downstream. Once at sea, much of the plastic trash remains in coastal waters. But once caught up in ocean currents, it can be transported around the world.

(5) Millions of animals are killed by plastics every year, from birds to fish to other marine organisms. Nearly 700 species, including endangered ones, are known to have been affected by plastics. Nearly every species of seabird eats plastics. Most of the deaths of animals are caused by entanglement or starvation. Seals, whales, turtles, and other animals are strangled by abandoned fishing gear or discarded six-pack rings.

(6) The solution is to prevent plastic waste from entering rivers and seas in the first place, many scientists and conservationists — including the National Geographic Society — say. This could be accomplished with improved waste management systems and recycling, better product design that takes into account the short life of disposable packaging, and reduction in manufacturing of unnecessary single-use plastics. *(414 words)*

(i) Which of the following statements best describes the reason why plastic pollution has become one of the most pressing environmental issues?
(a) Plastic trash collection systems have become inefficient or nonexistent.
(b) Rapidly increasing production of disposable plastic products overwhelms waste management.
(c) Some plastics have a lifespan of mere minutes to hours, yet they may persist in the environment for hundreds of years.
(d) The developed world, especially in countries with low recycling rates, has trouble properly collecting plastics. [1]

(ii) What is the tone of the writer in the given lines from paragraph 2? Rationalise your response in about 40 words.

"It transformed the modern age so much that life without plastics is unrecognizable today." [1]

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

Opinion	Reason
Single-use plastics harm the environment	_____

[1]

(iv) The passage includes some words that are opposites of each other. From the sets (a)–(e) below, identify two sets of synonyms.
(a) transformed and revolutionized
(b) disposable and reusable
(c) persist and vanish

(d) abandoned and discarded
(e) entanglement and starvation [1]

(v) In the phrase 'act as conveyor belts', the word 'conveyor' refers to _____. [1]

(vi) Why does the writer call rivers 'conveyor belts' of plastic trash? Answer in about 40 words with reference to paragraph 4. [2]

(vii) Based on the reading of the passage, examine the link between plastic pollution and harm to marine animals.

Assertion (A): Nearly every species of seabird eats plastics.

Reason (R): Most of the deaths of animals are caused by entanglement or starvation.
(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]

(viii) What might be the author's purpose of including the views of scientists and conservationists in the concluding paragraph? [2]

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

Passage:

(1) A detailed study conducted across various industries and research sectors has shed light on the evolving landscape of artificial intelligence (AI). It revealed that nearly 70% of AI applications are developed by private tech companies, driven by innovation and market competition. About 20% stem from collaborations between academic institutions and industry leaders, fostering advancements in fields such as healthcare, finance, and transportation.

(2) Interestingly, around 10% of AI initiatives are spearheaded by governmental or non-governmental organisations, often focussing on social welfare. These projects aim to address issues like disaster prediction, agricultural efficiency, and public health monitoring.

(3) Among the AI applications, approximately 45% focus on automation, improving productivity and reducing operational cost. Around 30% cater to predictive analytics, aiding in decision-making processes in domains such as finance and weather forecasting. The remaining 25% revolve around interactive AI, such as chatbots and virtual assistants, enhancing user engagement and accessibility.

(4) Further analysis indicates that about 60% of AI implementations are found in urban areas, particularly in tech hubs and metropolitan cities. Around 30% are applied in industrial zones, enhancing manufacturing and logistics. The remaining 10% serve rural and underserved regions, supporting initiatives like digital literacy, healthcare access and agricultural support.

Who develops AI? Who uses it?

Developer	Share	Application area	Share
Private tech companies	70%	Automation	45%
Academia–industry tie-ups	20%	Predictive analytics	30%
Government / NGOs	10%	Interactive AI	25%

(242 words)

(i) What does the use of the phrase 'evolving landscape of artificial intelligence' in paragraph 1 suggest?
(a) disinterest (b) progress and development (c) frustration (d) confusion [1]

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

Assertion: Governmental and non-governmental organisations often use AI for social welfare.

Reason: These organisations focus on disaster prediction, agricultural efficiency, and public health monitoring.
(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) Identify the word or phrase that indicates supervision as one of the areas of AI applications. (Paragraph 2) [1]

(iv) How do AI applications contribute to societal development, especially in rural and underserved regions? [1]

(v) Read the given prompt and select the correct option in the brackets to fill in the blank:

In a remote village, an AI powered system is used to monitor crop health and provide timely updates to farmers. The percentage of AI initiatives in this segment would be categorized under _____. (10% / 30% / 45%) [1]

(vi) What does the high percentage of AI implementations in urban areas suggest about the development and adoption of technology? [1]

(vii) Complete the sentence suitably:

The collaboration between academic institutions and industry leaders in developing AI applications demonstrates _____. [1]

(viii) Complete the following with a suitable reason:

The most likely reason the passage mentions 'interactive AI' as a key focus area is because it enhances _____. [1]

(ix) In the context of the last paragraph, describe the significance of comparing various parameters such as ethical concerns, accessibility, industry-specific applications, and societal impact in understanding the evolving AI landscape. [2]

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 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

(II) 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

(III) Complete the following, by filling in the blank with the correct option:
People who do not recycle items like bottles and cans _____ the world's resources. [1]

(a) will waste (b) have wasted (c) waste (d) are wasting

(IV) Fill in the blank with the correct form of the verb given in the brackets:
The chief guest _____ (address) the gathering before the cultural programme began. [1]

(V) 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

(VI) Read Ananya's reply to her class teacher:
"I have already submitted my project report, ma'am."
Report the reply by completing the sentence correctly:
Ananya informed her class teacher that _____. [1]

(VII) Select the correct option from the brackets to fill in the blank:
Ravi _____ (may/should/must) be at home; I saw his car in the driveway. [1]

(VIII) Fill in the blank with the correct form of the verb given in the brackets, from a project document:
This report _____ (aim) at documenting the key milestones achieved by the organisation so far. [1]

(IX) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option from those given in brackets:
You _____ *(needn't/can't/shouldn't)* carry your passport everywhere; a photocopy will suffice for the college admission process. [1]

(X) Complete the given sentence by filling in the blank with the correct form of the verb in the brackets:
By the time the chief guest arrived, the students _____ (finish) their rehearsals. [1]

(XI) Complete the given sentence with the correct form of the verb by selecting the correct option:
A case _____ against the unidentified truck driver for causing damage to the street poles due to negligence and rash driving. [1]

(a) was registered (b) is register (c) have been registered (d) may registered

(XII) 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

WRITING (10 marks)

Q4. A. You are Vikram/Veena of 15, Rajpur Road, Delhi. The public park in your locality is in a state of neglect – broken benches, overflowing dustbins and no lighting in the evenings. Write a letter to the Chairperson of the Municipal Corporation requesting him/her to restore the park and improve its maintenance. **[5]**

OR

(B) As Rohini Monga / Rohan Monga, of 43 Jai Apartments, Neerbagh, you feel that there should be a dedicated space in the community park for the senior citizens of the society, where they can gather. Write a letter to the RWA of your society in about 120 words, suggesting spaces in the park and emphasizing the importance of creating such a space.

Q5. A. Read the given details of an eco-friendly school bag.

- Made from recycled materials
- Ergonomic design with padded shoulder straps and breathable mesh back panel
- Spacious main compartment with multiple pockets and organisers
- Reflective strips for visibility in low light
- Water-resistant fabric
- Available in vibrant colours and patterns

Analyse the details and write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words evaluating why this school bag is a good purchase for students. **[5]**

OR

(B) Today, many projects in India are being initiated and implemented with the aim of transforming India into a digitally empowered society and economy. Given below are the components of the Digital India Programme.

- IT – Jobs
- E-governance
- E-Kranti: Electronic Delivery of Services
- Broadband for all – Urban and Rural
- Information for all

Write an analytical paragraph of 100–120 words based on the given information, evaluating how these components together aim to empower citizens.

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 arrival of a stranger at an inn in winter was in any case an unusual event. A stranger of such uncommon appearance set all tongues wagging. Mrs Hall, the landlord's wife, made every effort to be friendly. But Griffin had no desire to talk, and told her, "My reason for coming to Iping is a desire for solitude. I do not wish to be disturbed in my work. Besides, an accident has affected my face."
Satisfied that her guest was an eccentric scientist, and in view of the fact that he had paid her in advance, Mrs Hall was prepared to excuse his strange habits and irritable temper. *(Footprints Without Feet)*

(i) The phrase "set all tongues wagging" means the stranger made the villagers _____. [1]

(ii) Mrs Hall excused Griffin's strange habits and irritable temper. Which of these was NOT a reason for her doing so?
(a) she believed he was an eccentric scientist
(b) he had paid her in advance
(c) she was frightened of his temper
(d) his arrival was unusual in winter [1]

(iii) What does the extract suggest about the source of Griffin's money? _____ [1]

(iv) How does Griffin's statement about wanting "solitude" sit with the reality of his situation? Answer in about 40 words. [2]

OR

(B)

Extract: He was silent, stupefied, in dismay, at the sight of his wife weeping. He stammered, "What is the matter? What is the matter?"
By a violent effort, she had controlled her vexation and responded in a calm voice, wiping her moist cheeks, "Nothing. Only I have no dress and consequently I cannot go to this affair. Give your card to some colleague whose wife is better fitted out than I."
He was grieved, but answered, "Let us see, Matilda. How much would a suitable costume cost, something that would serve for their occasions, something very simple?"
She reflected for some seconds thinking of a sum that could ask for without bringing with it an immediate refusal and a frightened exclamation from the economical clerk. *(The Necklace)*

(i) Matilda's advice to "give your card to some colleague whose wife is better fitted out" is said with a mixture of _____. [1]

(ii) Matilda's calm voice, despite her weeping, shows that:
(a) she has overcome her disappointment
(b) she is controlling herself to make her displeasure felt
(c) she no longer wants to go to the ball
(d) she is indifferent to the invitation [1]

(iii) The word "stupefied" in the first line means the same as:
(a) angry (b) shocked (c) amused (d) bored [1]

(iv) What does the phrase "the economical clerk" tell us about the Loisels' finances and the husband's nature? 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: Some say the world will end in fire
Some say in ice.
From what I've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favour fire. *(Fire and Ice)*

(i) The speaker offers evidence to support his preference for one theory over the other. Mention the evidence. [1]

(ii) What is the prediction of the poet about how the world will come to an end? Answer in about 40 words. [2]

(iii) 'Fire' and 'Ice' are used in the poem as _____.
(a) similes (b) metaphors (c) repetition (d) oxymorons [1]

(iv) Comment on the overall mood of the extract. [1]

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) Mandela says, "The policy of apartheid created a deep and lasting wound in my country and my people." Explain the significance of the word "wound" as used by Mandela.

(II) '*Dust of Snow*' presents the polar opposites black and white in a colour palette. Justify that 'black' and 'white' signify something deeper than the superficial meaning in the poem.

(III) Flying is a natural act in birds. Then why was the young seagull "exhausted by the strange exercise"? Justify with reference to his fear.

(IV) Assess how the poem's message about not judging by appearances is still relevant today. Answer in about 40–50 words.

(V) In what way does the diary reflect the theme of isolation?

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

(I) Briefly evaluate the validity of the adage "Values are caught, not taught", in the context of the relationship between Anil and Hari Singh.

(II) Why does Horace Danby consider himself an honest man despite being a thief? How does this self-perception affect his decision in the story?

(III) How did small, fun learning tasks lead Richard Ebright towards serious science?

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

(A) Self-doubt and fear often act as barriers to success. On the other hand, curiosity leads to learning new things. Justify the statement citing instances from *His First Flight*. (100–120 words)

OR

(B) Amanda and Valli both represent a longing for freedom. Examine the above observation with reference to the two texts. 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) 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*.

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 *****