CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

CBSE 2026-27

English Language and Literature

Subject Code: 184 | Class X

Solutions

Sample Question Paper – Set 8

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) The average teenager now spends more hours each day looking at screens than sleeping. Phones wake us, accompany our meals, fill our queues, and often are the last thing we see at night. Nobody planned this. It arrived one notification at a time — and it is why the idea of a 'digital detox', a deliberate break from screens, has moved from wellness blogs to school timetables and family dinner-table rules.

(2) The case for occasional disconnection is grounded in how attention works. Every ping claims a tiny slice of focus, and research on task-switching suggests that recovering deep concentration after an interruption can take many minutes. Over a day, these fragments add up: hours in which we are present in body but absent in mind. Sleep suffers too, as evening screen light delays the release of the hormone that tells the body it is night.

(3) What a detox does is restore contrast. When a group of students surrendered their phones for a weekend, many reported — after an initial restless day — sharper conversations, better sleep, and a strange, renewed interest in the physical world around them. The phone returned on Monday; what many of them kept was not the absence of the device but a new awareness of when it was using them rather than the other way round.

(4) The aim, enthusiasts insist, is not abstinence but balance. A detox that ends in an all-night binge of missed messages has missed the point. The better goal is what some researchers call 'digital minimalism': keeping the tools that genuinely serve you — maps, calls, learning apps — and cutting the mechanics engineered merely to hold your attention.

(5) Critics call the movement a fad, arguing that screens are simply where modern life happens — classrooms, friendships, banking, even the protest movements of the age all live on them. Telling the young to log off, they say, is like telling a previous generation to give up reading.

(6) There is truth on both sides, which is why the quiet middle path is winning: not the total ban, not the surrendered evening, but the deliberate rule — no phones at meals, one hour offline before bed, notifications turned off by default. The screen is a magnificent servant and a poor master, and the detox conversation, at bottom, is about deciding which of the two it shall be. *(421 words)*

(i) Why does the writer say that the screen problem 'arrived one notification at a time'? (Paragraph 1) [1]

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

The writer notes that recovering deep concentration after an interruption 'can take many minutes' in order to _____. (paragraph 2)

(a) prove that notifications make multi-tasking impossible for everyone.

(b) show how small interruptions add up to a large daily loss of focus. [1]

(iii) Based on your reading of paragraph 2, list two ways in which heavy screen use affects sleep. [1]

(iv) The writer describes the students' phone-free weekend in paragraph 3. Examine in about 40 words what the students kept after the weekend, and why it matters more than the detox itself. [2]

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

According to the writer, the goal of a digital detox is to give up screens permanently. (Paragraph 4) [1]

(vi) In the phrase 'digital minimalism', the word 'minimalism' refers to _____.
(a) banning all devices (b) keeping only the tools that genuinely serve you (c) buying fewer gadgets
(d) using screens for the minimum time each day [1]

(vii) Select the option that best describes the writer's response to the critics in paragraphs 5 and 6.
(a) He dismisses them as old-fashioned.
(b) He accepts their point entirely and withdraws his argument.
(c) He acknowledges their point and proposes deliberate, moderate rules instead of a total ban.
(d) He proves their argument false with the students' experiment. [1]

(viii) What does the writer mean by 'The screen is a magnificent servant and a poor master'? Answer in about 40 words. [2]

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

Passage:

(1) Fascination of glassware has captivated people all over the world for its blending utility, artistry and cultural significance. The invention of glassblowing, a technique that involves inflating molten glass into a bubble with the help of a blowpipe, revolutionized the craft, making glassware more accessible, affordable and versatile. This allowed the mass production of glass vessels.

(2) In India, the craze for glassware has made this industry a significant segment of the manufacturing sector which is notably contributing to both — domestic consumption and exports. India's glass industry comprises a diverse range of products such as container glass, flat glass, and fibreglass. As of 2024, the Indian glass industry was valued at approximately Rs 40,338 crore. The growth is fuelled by increasing sustainability and the rising demand for decorative items. The flat glass segment, essential for the construction and automotive sectors, contributes around 55% of the total industry revenue. Due to rising demand for energy-efficient buildings, toughened glass is extensively employed. It is also used in automotive windows, doors, facades, and shower screens. In packaging, container glass is used especially for beverages and pharmaceuticals, which makes up around 25% of the market.

(3) Firozabad in Uttar Pradesh is the heart of the Indian glass industry and is often referred to as the 'City of Glass'. Firozabad specializes in decorative glassware, chandeliers, bangles and domestic glass products. More than 400 glassware manufacturing units provide employment to over 1,50,000 workers.

The Indian glass industry at a glance (2024):

Indicator	Value
Industry value	Rs 40,338 crore
Flat glass share of revenue	55%
Container glass share	25%
Units in Firozabad	400+
Workers employed	1,50,000+

(250 words)

(i) Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below. (Paragraph 1)

Assertion: The invention of glassblowing has expanded the glass industry all over the world.

Reason: Glassblowing allowed craftsmen to produce complex glass objects faster and in large quantities.

(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]

(ii) In paragraph 2, identify the word that indicates people's fascination for glassware. [1]

(iii) Support with evidence from the passage that India's glass industry has a 'diverse range'. (Paragraph 2) [2]

(iv) Read the given prompt and select the correct option in the brackets to fill in the blank. (Paragraph 2)

The percentage of container glass used in pharmaceuticals and packaging is _____. (23%, 25%, 28%) [1]

(v) Why is Firozabad referred to as the 'City of Glass'? (Paragraph 3) [1]

(vi) What does the number of workers in the glassware industry emphasize about the employability of Firozabad? (Paragraph 3) [1]

(vii) Complete the sentence appropriately:

India's glass industry is unique as compared to global leaders like China and the USA because _____. [1]

(viii) How does using recycled glass benefit the glassware industry environmentally? [1]

(ix) Complete the following with a suitable reason:

The Indian glass industry is facing many challenges because _____. [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 with the correct option to complete a message from Yogita to her friend Shobit:
Dear Shobit,
Let's meet at 5 p.m. for the rehearsal but I need to go home first as I _____ anything since morning. [1]

(a) did not eat (b) had not eaten (c) have not eaten (d) am not eating

(II) Fill in the blank with the correct form of the verb given in the brackets, from a travel blog:
This hill station _____ (lose) its natural beauty since the last time I saw it. [1]

(III) Fill in the blank with the correct option to complete the opening line of a formal email:
Dear Ms. Sharma,
We are writing to confirm that your application for the scholarship programme _____ by our selection committee last week. [1]

(a) has been reviewed (b) was reviewed (c) has been reviewing (d) will be reviewed

(IV) 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

(V) Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction.
Balancing a hobby with a professional life is the key to success.

Error	Correction
_____	_____

[1]

(VI) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct words from those given in the brackets:
It is possible that the event _____ be cancelled if it rains heavily tomorrow. *(must / will / may)* [1]

(VII) Identify the error and write the correction in the given sentence from a life skills' book. Use the given format.
The road to success is not the bed of roses.

Error	Correction
_____	_____

[1]

(VIII) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option given in the brackets:
_____ *(Several/Both/All)* people attended the convention because the entry was open to all at a very nominal fee. [1]

(IX) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the official notice:
Notification to All Students,
Please note that _____ applicants who have submitted incomplete forms are required to resubmit their documents by Friday. [1]

(a) these (b) those (c) this (d) that

(X) Identify and correct the error in the given line taken from an agency's advertisement.
Tell us much about your project and we'll select suitable candidates for you to hire.

Error	Correction
_____	_____

[1]

(XI) 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

(XII) Select the correct option to complete the given sentence from a debate script:
The current approach to teaching _____ to be reviewed, for it ignores the needs of students with different learning styles. [1]

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

WRITING (10 marks)

Q4. A. You are Shereen / Shivaji. There has been a lot of construction going on in your colony since the past few months. However the contractors do not follow any protocols of timings, blocking pavements with building material and dumping the rubble in the back lanes and sewage pipes. Write a letter to the President of your RWA drawing attention to these issues. Suggest a set of protocols to be followed by the builders to reduce any inconvenience being caused to the neighbouring residents. **[5]**

OR

(B) You are Meera/Vaibhav and would like to share your views on the pros and cons of technology in education. Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper expressing your views in about 100–120 words.

Q5. A. Read the given details about sleep patterns and their effects.

- restores energy
- enhances immunity
- promotes emotional well-being
- benefits concentration and productivity
- oversleep leads to fatigue, weight gain and irritability

Analyse the details and write an analytical paragraph on the importance of sleep in maintaining physical health, mental well-being, and academic performance. **[5]**

OR

(B) Your school conducted a survey on the awareness of water conservation practices among students of classes VI–X. The results are given below. Write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words analysing the awareness levels across classes and suggesting what the school should do to improve them.

Class	**Students aware of conservation practices (%)**
VI	35
VII	42
VIII	55
IX	68
X	81

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: 'I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.' *(Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom)*

(i) What is the main ideal Mandela is talking about?
(a) economic prosperity
(b) representative and free society
(c) absolute power
(d) finishing racism [1]

(ii) How does the statement reflect Mandela's commitment to justice? (Answer in about 40 words) [2]

(iii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket:

Nelson's vision was not simply to reverse the oppression but to end it completely as he wishes to _____ (fight / appease) all forms of domination in which all persons live with equal opportunities. [1]

(iv) The phrase 'prepared to die' shows Mandela's:
(a) anxiety
(b) desperation
(c) passion
(d) uprightness [1]

OR

(B)

Extract: Writing in a diary is a really strange experience for someone like me. Not only because I've never written anything before, but also because it seems to me that later on neither I nor anyone else will be interested in the musings of a thirteen-year-old schoolgirl. Oh well, it doesn't matter. I feel like writing, and I have an even greater need to get all kinds of things off my chest.
'Paper has more patience than people.' I thought of this saying on one of those days when I was feeling a little depressed and was sitting at home with my chin in my hands, bored and listless, wondering whether to stay in or go out. I finally stayed where I was, brooding: Yes, paper does have more patience and since I'm not planning to let anyone else read this stiff-backed notebook grandly referred to as a 'diary' unless I should ever find a real friend, it probably won't make a bit of difference. *(From the Diary of Anne Frank)*

(i) Anne will let no one read her diary unless she finds a real _____. [1]

(ii) Anne calls her diary a "stiff-backed notebook". This shows that she:
(a) respects the notebook deeply
(b) finds the diary formal and a little awkward
(c) hates writing
(d) loves the colour of the notebook [1]

(iii) Anne says that no one will be interested in the musings of a thirteen-year-old _____. [1]

(iv) Explain the meaning of "Paper has more patience than people" 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: 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]

OR

(B)

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]

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

(I) In "Mijbil the Otter", how does the narrator's patience contrast with the reactions of fellow passengers and local people? What does this reveal about human understanding of the unfamiliar?

(II) How does the poem '*The Tale of Custard the Dragon*' differ from the traditional ballad? Answer in about 40–50 words.

(III) Valli was a mature girl and ahead of her age. Justify the statement with evidence from the text.

(IV) Explain why the speaker mentions God in '*For Anne Gregory*'. Answer in about 40–50 words.

(V) The narrator's help came from an unexpected source. How does this episode show that help can arrive in unexpected forms?

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

(I) For Bholi, the school became a place "better than her home". Why?

(II) The humour in the play arises from the Martians' misunderstandings. How do these misunderstandings comment on the way people perceive what they do not know?

(III) Griffin was the antithesis of everything a scientist should be. Justify.

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

(A) Discuss, with examples from the text, the role of the baker in shaping the memories and experiences of the people in Goa. (100–120 words)

OR

(B) "In spite of the heartrending circumstances in which the diary was written, it was not an inspiring but rather a depressing book." Explore. (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) 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 *****