

2026
EXAMINATION



CBSE QUESTION & CONCEPT BANK

Chapter-wise & Topic-wise
with 50% Competency Questions

CLASS 10



Chapter-wise

CONCEPT MAPS



Important Questions with Detailed Explanations

NCERT



Handpicked & High yield from Past 10 Years

PYQs



Revision Blue Print & Solved Questions

COMPETENCY FOCUSED



CBSE 2025 Past Year & SQP Solved Papers

LATEST CBSE PAPERS



As per Latest Pattern

MOCK TESTS

ENGLISH

LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

Chapter-wise Weightage and Trend Analysis of CBSE Past 6 Years' Papers

ENGLISH										
CHAPTERS	2020		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	DL	ODL	DL	ODL	DL	ODL	DL	ODL	DL	ODL
Reading Comprehension	20	20	10	10	20	20	20	20	20	20
Grammar	12	12	5	5	10	10	10	10	10	12
Formal Letter	8	8	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	8
Analytical Paragraph	—	—	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	—
Article Writing (<i>Rationalised</i>)	8	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Story Writing (<i>Rationalised</i>)	10	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
A Letter to God	—	2	—	—	3	3	3	3	6*, 3	2
Nelson Mandela - Long Walk to Freedom	—	2	—	—	6	—	6*, 5	6*	—	2
Two Stories About Flying	2	—	—	—	8	6	—	3	6*	—
From the Diary of Anne Frank	8	—	—	—	—	5	6*, 5	—	5	—
The Hundred Dresses-I (<i>Rationalised</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
The Hundred Dresses-II (<i>Rationalised</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Glimpses of India	2	—	2	2	3	3	6*	5, 3	3	—
Mijbil the Otter	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madam Rides the Bus	—	8	4	4	3	6	—	6*	—	8
The Sermon at Benares	—	8	4	2	6	3	3	6*	6*	8
The Proposal (Play)	—	—	2	4	5	3	—	—	3	—
Dust of Snow	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—
Fire and Ice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
A Tiger in the Zoo	—	—	—	—	5	5	5	—	—	—
How to Tell Wild Animals	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	5	3	—
The Ball Poem	2	—	—	—	—	—	5	6*	6*	—
Animals (<i>Rationalised</i>)	4	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Amanda!	—	—	2	2	5	3	6*	3	—	—
The Trees	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	5	5	4
Fog	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
The Tale of Custard the Dragon	—	—	2	2	3	—	3	3	5	—
For Anne Gregory	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
A Triumph of Surgery	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	3	3	—
The Thief's Story	2	2	—	—	6	3	6	5	—	2
The Midnight Visitor	—	4	—	—	3	—	—	—	3	4
A Question of Trust	4	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—
Footprints Without Feet	2	8	—	—	—	5	3	6	6	8
The Making of a Scientist	8	2	2	2	3	3	—	3	—	2
The Necklace	2	8	4	2	6	6	3	6	5	8
The Hack Driver (<i>Rationalised</i>)	—	—	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bholi	—	2	—	—	—	6	3	—	3	2
The Book that Saved the Earth	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	6	—
The Diary of a Young Girl (<i>Rationalised</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
The Story of My Life (<i>Rationalised</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

*Some questions test students' knowledge of more than one literary text.

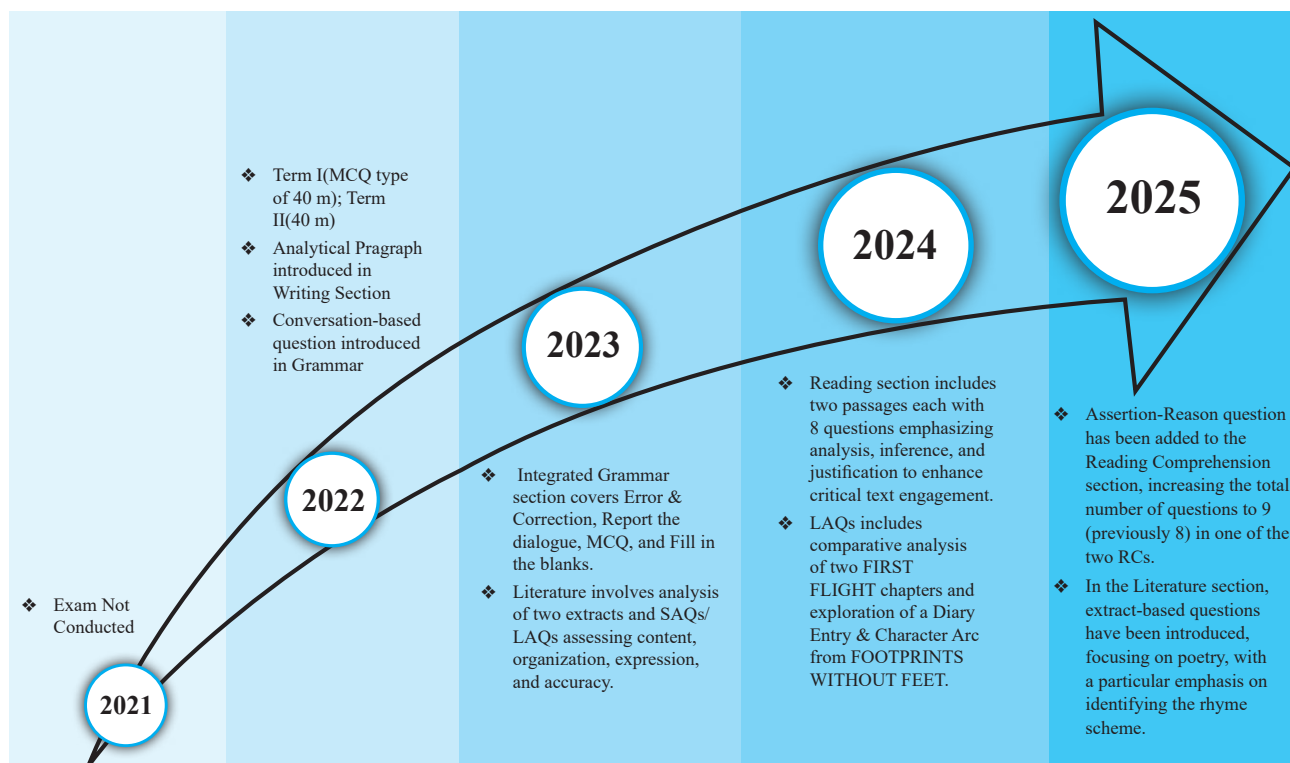
*The marks allotment mentioned above is chapter-wise and includes internal choice questions as well. Therefore, the total might not match the Maximum Marks of the respective Previous Year Paper. Here, DL is Delhi, ODL is Outside Delhi.

*For the year 2021, the exam was not conducted.

Question Typology

YEAR	Subjective Questions						
	RC	Writing	Grammar	Literature			
				MCQ	Extract Based	SAQ	LAQ
2025	2 (viii;ix)	2	1 (x)	-	2 (iv,iv)	2 (iv,ii)	2
2024	2 (viii;viii)	2	1 (x)	-	2 (iv,iv)	2 (iv,ii)	2
2023	2 (x,x)	2	1 (x)	-	2 (v,v)	2 (iv,ii)	2
2022 (Term II)	2 (v,v)	1	2	-	-	1 (vi)	2 (ii)
2022 (Term I)	2 (MCQs 8,6)	1 (MCQs 5)	1 (MCQs 5)	10	4 (MCQs 5,5,5,5)	-	-
2021	Exam Not Conducted						

Evolving Trends in CBSE Exam Patterns



This book is structured to support your learning journey of preparing for your board exams through a variety of engaging and informative elements. Here's how to make the most of it:

CBSE Solved Paper

(i) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket for the given portion of a letter:

We hope that you continue to work with the same zeal and keep _____ (surprise) us with such remarkable performances. We thank you and wish you good luck for your upcoming projects.

Regards,

(ii) _____

(iii) Read the given passage from a medical journal. Identify the error and supply the correction in the sentence:

A flu vaccine's most common side effects are soreness, redness and swelling at the injection site. These ought begin six to twelve hours after vaccination and can last up to two days.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction			
(iv)	Error	Correction		
	Ought	ought to		

(viii) Tami and Anni had a conversation about the execution of Tami's travel plan.

Report Ann's suggestion.

1

Preview

Exercise with Explanations

2

Practice your writing with ample questions, and learn from Topper's Explanations to understand the elements of high-scoring answers.

Accompanying the preview are Exercise Questions which provide enough practice on doing the different types of Unseen Passages in exam.

Topper's Explanations

TENSES

4

Preview

Tense is the form taken by a verb to indicate when an action began, continued, or ended. It is divided into three categories:

- ☐ **Present Tense:** Events occurring in the present.
- ☐ **Past Tense:** Events that took place in the past.
- ☐ **Future Tense:** Events that will take place in the future.

Note:

- While answering the questions related to tenses, it is important to understand the time of action, as it will help choose the right verb form.
- As a general tip, it is important to be consistent with the verb form in the sentence or text until the theme or time of action needs to change.
- Make sure to read the sentence after answering the questions, as it will help remove grammatical errors.

Important points

- Singular Subject-Singular verb (She prays.)
- Plural Subject-Plural Verb (We pray)
- Singular Subject + Has
- Plural Subject + Have
- Verb + 'ing' in all Continuous Tenses shows the actions' continuity.
- Use Did with V1 e.g.,

I didn't see him. (correct)
I didn't saw him. (incorrect)

Tense	Indefinite/Simple	Progressive/Continuous	Perfect	Perfect Continuous
Present	S + V ₁ + (With plural subjects + O) S + V ₁ + s/es (With Singular Subjects + O)	S + is/am/are (V ₁ + ing) + O	S + has/have + V ₁ + O	S + has/have + been + V ₁ + ing + since/for + O
Past	S + V ₂ + O	S + was/were + (V ₁ + ing + O)	S + had + V ₁ + O	S + had been + V ₁ + ing + since/for + O
Future	S + will/shall + V ₁ + O	S + will be/shall be + (V ₁ + ing) + O	S + will/shall + V ₁ + O	S + will/shall + have + been + (V ₁ + ing) + since/for + O

Note: 'Shall' is used with 1st person (We/I), 'will' is used with 2nd and 3rd person.
Order of will/shall in interchanged in compulsory case
S = Subject, V = Verb, O = Object

Preview

Grammar

All grammar topics are thoroughly explained to clear concepts before practicing integrated grammar exercise.

Ample Questions on each topic that is observed in the latest Board Exam is provided with Answer Key and Explanations.

Integrated Grammar

INTEGRATED GRAMMAR

9

Fill in the blanks

Fill in the blanks choosing the correct option from the given options:

- The teacher along with his students _____ planning a surprise party.
(a) is (b) are
(c) was (d) were
- By the time you arrive, the movie _____.
(a) starts (b) will start
(c) will have started (d) start
- All of the cookies _____ eaten by the time we got to the party.
(a) is (b) are
(c) was (d) were

9. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket: (CWSA, 2023)

- Governments are starting programmes _____ (teach) adults how to read and write.
(a) that teaching (b) which taught
(c) to teach (d) were teaching
10. Under new management, the company policies _____ to better accommodate work-life balance for all employees.
(a) are being revised (b) revise
(c) has revised (d) were revised
11. If he _____ earlier, he wouldn't have missed the beginning of the seminar.
(a) comes (b) come
(c) had come (d) would come

ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

Fill in the blanks

- (a) is
Exp. When the subject is combined with "along with", "as well as", or similar expressions, the verb agrees with the first subject. In this case, "the teacher" is singular, so "is" is the correct verb.
- (c) will have started
Exp. This sentence describes an action that will be completed before another action in the future. "Will have started" is the correct form of the future perfect tense to use here.
- (d) had been
Exp. This sentence describes an action that was completed before another past action. "Had been" is the correct passive form of the past perfect tense to use here.
- (b) Would
Exp. "Would you mind" is the correct polite form to ask someone to do something.

12. (d) could
Exp. In this sentence, the speaker is referring to an ability they had in the past, which is appropriately expressed using "could", the past tense form of "can". "Can" is used for present abilities, "must" for obligations, and "might" for possibilities.
13. (c) nodded
Exp. This question is about verb tense agreement with a past time expression. "Nodded" is correct for a past action where everyone showed agreement.
14. (a) is bound to
Exp. The phrase "is bound to" indicates a very high probability or near certainty of something happening, which fits the context of the car breaking down without service. "May" suggests a possibility but does not convey the same level of likelihood.
15. (c) must not use

Lencho received the money but became angry because it was not the full amount.

He wrote another letter to God, asking for the remaining money and criticizing the post office employees.

The letter requested the rest of the money, stating that the post office employees were "crooks."

BEFORE YOU READ

Theme

"A Letter to God" revolves around the idea of complete faith in God by a simple and poor farmer named Lencho. The farmer's innocent and unquestionable faith in God made him ignorant of the fact that a sympathetic postmaster was helping him. The story highlights the themes of nature being destructive, humanity and kindness of strangers, and the conflict between nature and humans as well as between humans and humans. The story has an ironic ending as the post office employees whom Lencho thought had stolen his money, actually made contributions to help him.

Knowledge Hub

Irony is figurative language that refers to the contrast between expectations and reality. Writers use this literary device to draw readers in and keep them entertained.

Important Characters' Sketch

- Lencho:** Lencho is the main character of the story. He was a poor, hardworking farmer who lived on the low hill's crest and was the family's sole bread earner. He was innocent, ignorant and a firm believer in God. He believed that God sees everything and no one ever dies of hunger. When his crops failed due to a natural calamity¹, he kept his faith intact and turned to God for help.
- Postmaster:** The postmaster was an amiable² fellow. He was a kind, sensible and empathetic³ person. He was amazed by the depth of faith shown in God by an innocent farmer. At first, he was amused by Lencho's letter to God asking for monetary help, but he later got impressed by Lencho's faith in God. He didn't want to break this man's trust in God and so decided to provide financial support to him by contributing a part of his salary along with other post-office employees. This showed his empathetic side as a person.

SYNOPSIS

A letter to God, by G.L. Fuentes, depicts the unquestionable faith in God of a poor and simple-minded farmer named Lencho. Lencho was poor yet dedicated farmer. He hoped for a good rain shower to ensure a decent harvest. But soon, his happiness turned into dismay⁴ when the rain changed into a hailstorm and destroyed all his crops. The poor farmer was filled with sadness when he looked at the damage. After the storm had passed, he stood in the middle of the field and said to his sons, "A plague of locusts⁵ would have left more than this."

¹Sympathetic: feeling or expressing sympathy
²Amiable: friendly
³Empathetic: ability to understand other's feelings
⁴Dismay: shock; surprise
⁵Plague of locusts: an uncontrollable increase in number of insect

¹Trivial: of little value or importance
²Hemlock: a poisonous tree with small white flowers
³Gloom: depression

Narrative Sketch/Poetic Sketch

Synopsis

Begin with the Concept Map that visually encapsulates the storyline, themes, and characters, serving as a quick reference to recall important highlights.

Theme & Important Characters' Sketch: Understand the core message and the players involved in each story or poem with concise descriptions.

After reading, review the Synopsis for a summary of the main events or themes.

Literary Devices Section in Poetry: Learn to identify and understand the significance of literary devices in poetry to appreciate the craft of poets and the depth of their works.

which usually symbolizes bad omen¹, fear and death. Similarly, he uses 'dust', which is considered useless.

Stanza 2

Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued².

Explanation

In this stanza, the poet tells us how falling snow on his head instantly lifted his mood. He had already spent his day in a bad mood and was not looking forward to the rest. However, his day was saved somehow by being with nature. The dust of snow that fell on him had given him an experience he could treasure.

Generally, the hemlock tree and crow are used as negative references, but Frost has used them beautifully to portray that inauspicious³ things can bring joy and happiness. Here, the poet tries to show how small and unexpected things from nature can still bring positivity to someone.

One must be grateful for these small acts of nature when it blesses our souls in unexpected ways.

¹Omen: an event regarded as good or bad
²Hand: held in regret
³Inauspicious: unfortunate

Literary Devices

Alliteration: Repetition of two or more closely related words beginning with a consonant sound.
"Has given my heart",
"And saved some part."

Assonance: Repetition of similar vowel sounds in a series of words.

"Shook down on me" - 'o' sound is prominent.

Enjambement: When the same sentence continues to the following line without the use of any punctuation marks. It is used throughout the poem.

NCERT Exercise with Explanations: NCERT Questions with Explanations will ensure you understand the reasoning behind each answer.

I am writing to express my deep concern about the lack of a comprehensive recycling program in our schools. As a student, I believe it is crucial for us to take responsibility for our environmental impact and promote sustainable practices.

I strongly urge you to consider implementing a recycling program that includes separate bins for paper, plastic, and glass in every classroom. Additionally, educational initiatives can be introduced to raise awareness about the importance of recycling and its positive impact on the environment.

Such a program would not only reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills but also instill eco-consciousness among students, fostering a culture of sustainability.

I kindly request your support in making our schools greener and more environmentally friendly. Together, we can make a significant difference in preserving our planet for future generations.

Yours truly
Shikha



Mistakes 101: What not to do!

Students tend to use a lot of abbreviations in Formal Letter Writing.



Nailing the Right Answer

In Formal Letter Writing, the language used should be simple but formal.

CBSE Marking Scheme: Content-2 M, Organisation of Ideas-2 M, Accuracy-1 M

5. (A) Suggested Answer:

The pie chart provides a comprehensive breakdown of Mrs. Sharma's family's expenditures. The most significant portion of their spending is on food, which accounts for 30% of their total expenses. This indicates the importance they place on nutrition and

Mock Test Paper-1



NCERT EXERCISE

Oral Comprehension Check

(NCERT, Page 5)

1. What did Lencho hope for?
Ans. Lencho hoped for rain to come, which would get him a good harvest of his crops.
2. Why did Lencho say the raindrops were like 'silver coins'?
Ans. Lencho compared the raindrops with silver coins, which seemed to bring him a good harvest. The way coins (money) bring prosperity, the same way those raindrops looked promising to him.
3. How did the rain change? What happened to Lencho's fields?
Ans. Lencho was confident he would get a good harvest. The season welcomed good rain which soon became a storm accompanied by wind and hailstorms.

midst: in the middle of
adversity: a difficult situation

4. What were Lencho's feelings when the hail stopped? (CBSE, 2020)

Ans. When the hail stopped, Lencho was disheartened to see all his crops ruined. He had a sorrowful night as there would be no corn that year.

(NCERT, Page 6)

1. Who or what did Lencho have faith in? What did he do?

Ans. Amidst¹ the adversity² Lencho was in, he still had faith in God. He believed that God sees everything, even what is deep in one's conscience³, and would ease his pain. He wrote God a letter demanding a hundred pesos to sow his field again.

2. Who read the letter?

Ans. The postmaster read the letter.

3. What did the postmaster do after reading the letter?

Ans. When the postmaster first saw the address, he laughed at it but soon turned serious and was moved by the writer's

¹Conscience: moral sense of right and wrong

Miscellaneous Exercise with Explanations & Step-wise Marking Scheme: Test your mastery of the literature section with additional exercises. Detailed explanations will support your learning, clarify doubts, and provide in-depth understanding.

Nailing the Right Answer & Mistakes 101: What Not to do!

Pointing out pitfalls to avoid & Misinterpretation of questions

Guiding you on how to articulate your knowledge in the most effective way.

SELECTED LAQs

As per the latest pattern observed in CBSE Board Exam 2024 for Q. 10 & Q. 11

CBSE Marking Scheme: Content-3 M, Expression-2 M, Accuracy-1 M

1. Evaluate the impact of friendship and companionship in both "Mijbil the Otter" and "From the Diary of Anne Frank."

Compare and contrast the significance of friendship in the lives of the main characters, highlighting the role it plays in their emotional well-being, support system, and overall survival. Write this presentation draft, including your insights, in about 120 words.

You may begin this way:
One acknowledges that both "Mijbil the Otter" and "From the Diary of Anne Frank" emphasize the importance of friendship and companionship in the lives of their main characters.

Ans. Good morning! Today, I want to discuss the importance of friendship in both the stories: "From the Diary of Anne Frank" and "Mijbil the Otter." In "Mijbil the Otter," a

elders who were ready to marry her to a man asking for dowry from her father. Additionally, her decision to reject the marriage proposal from the rich but greedy man-Bishamber showcases her self-worth and determination to prioritize her own happiness. Through these key moments, Bholi's growth highlights the power of self-acceptance in transforming one's life.

3. You have been asked to present an evaluation of the theme of "faith" in both "A Letter to God" and "The Ball Poem." Write this presentation draft including your insights, in about 120 words, comparing the theme of faith in both.

You may begin this way: One acknowledges that both "A Letter to God" and "The Ball Poem" portray characters who face challenging situations that test their faith; however,...

As per the latest pattern observed in CBSE Board Exam 2024 for Q. 10 & Q. 11

Selected LAQs



MISCELLANEOUS EXERCISE

Multiple Choice Questions

1. It was a celebration of South Africa's first government.
(a) National African Congress.
(b) African National Congress.
(c) Indian National Congress.
(d) He did not join any party.
2. Mandela refers to liberty as a "newborn" because:
(a) The rule of the earlier government had ended.
(b) It had recently been attained with lots of struggle.
(c) It made people experience infant-like excitement.
(d) He is talking about a newborn baby.
3. "We thank all of our distinguished international guests for having come to take possession with the people of our country of what is, after all, a common victory for..."

9. Which party did Mandela join?

- (a) National African Congress.
- (b) African National Congress.
- (c) Indian National Congress.
- (d) He did not join any party.

10. Which of these lines from "A Long Walk to Freedom" hints at the end of apartheid in South Africa?

- (a) I was not born with a hunger to be free. I was born free—free in every way that I could know.
- (b) ...I yearned for the basic and honourable freedoms of achieving my potential, of earning my keep...
- (c) Although that day, neither group knew the lyrics of the anthem they once despised, they would soon know the words by heart.
- (d) The white-skinned peoples of South Africa patched up their differences and erected a system of racial domination against the dark-skinned peoples...



ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

Answer Key

Multiple Choice Questions

1. (b) 2. (b) 3. (d) 4. (c) 5. (c) 6. (a) 7. (b) 8. (d) 9. (b) 10. (c)

Explanations

Extract-Based Questions

1. (b) They will waste their lifetime opportunity.
2. (c) It is essential.
3. The extract suggests that in order to make full use of experiences in life, character development is essential. The author emphasizes that leaving the alma mater

without a fully developed character would be a wasted opportunity of a lifetime. The extract highlights the importance of character over intelligence or talent, indicating that character development is a crucial aspect of education and personal growth.

4. "Precincts of the alma mater"

¹Overwhelmed: have a strong emotional effect

MOCK TEST PAPER-2

Time allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 80

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Read the following instructions carefully and follow them:

- (i) This question paper comprises 11 questions. All questions are compulsory.
- (ii) The question paper contains THREE sections:
Section A - Reading Skills
Section B - Grammar and Creative Writing Skills
Section C - Literature
- (iii) Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION - A READING SKILLS

(20 marks)

1. Read the following text.

1. My childhood had always been a sheltered one. My parents, along with my teachers, tried to instill good ethics in me. But sharing was one moral value which I was never comfortable with. "Why should I give?" It was my question. During one vacation to my hometown, I was at the railway station with my parents. As we were waiting for a train, something caught my attention. Two small children, perhaps siblings, were looking at me nearby. Though they appeared at ease, I was shocked by their overall untidiness. When they approached us, my father promptly gave the older one some money.

A separate Section is provided to revise and learn the unique style of Long Answer Questions asked in the latest Board Exam that tests 2 literary texts to assess students' creativity, imagination and extrapolation beyond the text and across the text.

Mock Test Papers: Test your preparedness with our Mock Test Papers designed to mirror the format and difficulty of real exams. Use the detailed explanations to identify areas of strength and opportunities for improvement.

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CBSE SOLVED PAPER 2025

Time allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 80

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Read the following instructions carefully and follow them:

- (i) This question paper comprises **11** questions. All questions are compulsory
- (ii) The question paper contains **THREE** section-

Section A – Reading Skills

Section B – Grammar and Creative Writing Skills

Section C – Literature

- (iii) Attempt question based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION - A

READING SKILLS

(20 marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully:

10 M

- (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.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

- (i) What does the writer's use of phrases like 'in urban regions kitchen gardens have garnered great acknowledgement' suggest about kitchen gardening today? 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. Paragraph (1)

Ans. (i) (c) It provides nutritious food.

- (ii) Complete the following with a suitable explanation. 1

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

Ans. (ii) Growing a kitchen garden is cost-effective because it allows urban dwellers to grow fresh produce at home, making use of empty tins, old utensils and clay pots, reducing expenses on purchasing food while ensuring a constant supply of nutritious food.

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

Ans. (iii) Traditional farming often involves the use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides and intensive irrigation which may negatively impact the environment, whereas kitchen gardens promote organic farming, reducing the use of harmful chemicals and preserving soil health.

- (iv) Substitute the underlined word with the correct word from Paragraph (4). 1

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

Ans. (iv) The correct word is "fostering".

THE PROPOSAL

—Anton Chekhov

9

Narrative Sketch



"The Proposal" is a comedic one-act play by Anton Chekhov about marriage and property disputes.

1

Lomov arrives at Chubukov's home to ask for his daughter, Natalya's hand in marriage, dressed formally for the occasion.

2

Initial excitement from Chubukov about the marriage proposal quickly turns into a quarrel over property boundaries.

3

The dispute centers around the ownership of Oxen Meadows, claimed by both families.

4

The argument escalates with both of them repeatedly asserting their ownership of the land.

5

Eventually, Lomov and Natalya awkwardly and chaotically become engaged, hinting at a future filled with disputes.

9

Chekhov humorously portrays the irony of human nature, where material disputes overshadow personal connections.

10

Chubukov intervenes and sides with his daughter, declaring that the meadows belong to their family.

6

The tension and disagreement between the characters heighten, setting the stage for further conflict and resolution.

7

The play satirizes the social conventions of the Russian landed gentry and their absurd concerns over status.

8

"The Proposal" remains a classic for its comedic examination of marriage negotiations and human relationships.

11

Theme

The play by Anton Chekhov is a farce¹ drama dealing with three quarrelsome² characters. The characters frequently quarrel over trivial matters. However, amidst the quarrelling, they forget the main issue: the marriage proposal. Lomov, a wealthy bachelor, came with a marriage proposal for Chubukov's daughter, Natalya. Although both fought throughout the play, economic sense wins in the end. In order to maintain their social status, wealthy families have a tendency to seek out relationships with other wealthy families.

Important Characters' Sketch

- ❑ **Stepan Stepanovitch Chubukov:** Chubukov is a greedy, short-tempered but practical landowner and a neighbour of Lomov, another wealthy landowner. Chubukov wishes to get his daughter married to Lomov. As soon as he hears that the latter has come with a marriage proposal, he joins in the fights immaturely. However, in the end, he hurriedly gets his daughter married to Lomov before another argument pops up.
- ❑ **Natalya Stepanovna:** Natalya, twenty-five, is the daughter of Chubukov. Her father calls her 'love-sick' as she is desperate to get married and would accept any man who proposes to her. She has a bad temper and fights on various occasions with her neighbour, who has brought a marriage proposal for her. Lomov considers Natalya an educated, average-looking, excellent housekeeper who might be a suitable match for him. She ends up marrying him even though they quarrel a lot until the end.
- ❑ **Ivan Vassilevitch Lomov:** Lomov is a thirty-five-year-old wealthy man who suffers from palpitations and has trouble sleeping peacefully. He wants to get married. He is a neighbour of Chubukov and wishes to marry Chubukov's daughter, Natalya. Even though he is not entirely in love with her, he finds no harm in marrying her as she is a suitable match. The two tend to fight over minor issues and call mean things to each others' families, but they end up getting married.

SYNOPSIS

The play begins with Lomov, a wealthy landowner, entering his neighbour Chubukov's house dressed formally. Chubukov asked if he was going somewhere. Lomov revealed that he specifically came to meet Chubukov. Chubukov assumed Lomov must have arrived to borrow money which Chubukov would not give.

Lomov stated that he had come to seek Natalya Chubukov's hand in marriage. Chubukov was overjoyed to hear this, as he had been hoping for this for a long time.

Lomov wondered if Natalya would agree to it. Chubukov added that he couldn't see why Natalya would not and exited to call her. Lomov wondered whether choosing to marry Natalya was the correct decision. He believed that she was a good housekeeper, well-educated and average looking. However, he is at a critical age of 35, suffers from palpitations and gets upset quickly. The worst of his problems is sleeping and getting up because of a pull he feels almost twenty times.

Natalya Stepanovna enters and asks Lomov for lunch, and both of them sit down. She then offers him to smoke and begins chatting with him about the weather and her field. When questioned about his coming, Lomov starts to talk about the friendly ties between their families. He mentions his Oxen Meadows touching Stepanovna's birchwoods while talking about his land.

Natalya interrupts him saying that Oxen Meadows are theirs, not his. Both argue for a while when Lomov thinks he can show the documents to clarify the confusion. However, Natalya is surprised and angry as she believes it is unfair to be told so suddenly that the land does not belong to them when they have had it for nearly three hundred years.

Both of them continued to argue that Oxen Meadows is theirs, and the argument turned heated. Chubukov then entered and the discussion continued. Lomov continued to yell because he had



Lessons to learn

- ❑ Communication is crucial.
- ❑ Assumptions can lead to misunderstandings.
- ❑ Emotional reactions can cloud judgment.
- ❑ Property disputes can strain relationships.
- ❑ Pride can hinder resolution.

¹ **Farce:** a comic, dramatic work

² **Quarrelsome:** (adjective) Ready for a fight; Argumentative

severe heart palpitations.³ Then, infuriated⁴, he called Chubukov a grabber and said he would take the matter to court. Finally, Natalya jumped into the discussion and asked her father to send the mowers⁵ out to the Meadows⁶ as she would not give up her Oxen Meadows.

They continued fighting and began defaming⁷ each other's families.

In between the argument, Lomov's left foot went numb, and he started feeling sick and went out of the door. Talking ill about him, Chubukov then mentions to Natalya that Lomov had come up with a proposal for her. Natalya was surprised and wanted to bring him back immediately. Chubukov called Lomov back and exited in disappointment.

Natalya politely apologised and told Lomov that the Oxen Meadows belonged to him only. She pressed on moving past this topic so that Lomov could start with the proposal. However, he continued about his dog, named Guess. He was upset that his best dog, for whom he had paid 125 roubles, had gone lame. At this point, Natalya commented that it was too much as the dog was very cheap compared to his father's Squeezer, who they got at 85 roubles. They enter into a debate on their dogs and continue to do so till Lomov says his heart is palpitating and he can not continue to debate on this. Chubukov enters the scene only to make things worse again.

Everyone gets hyper, and Lomov faints because of palpitations. Chubukov, too, is feeling sick; Natalya notices Lomov has fallen and panics thinking he is dead.

They give him some water to drink, and Chubukov pushes Lomov to get married to his daughter as she is ready. Finally, they agree to get married and kiss each other. However, the quarrelling continues as Natalya keeps persisting that Squeezer is better than Guess, but Lomov refuses to accept this, and the quarrelling continues between the characters.

**Lomov: My heart! My heart!
I can't handle this "proposal pressure"!**



**Talk about love taking
your breath away!**



NCERT EXERCISE

Thinking about the Text

(NCERT, Page 157)

1. What does Chubukov at first suspect that Lomov has come for? Is he sincere when he later says 'And I've always loved you, my angel, as if you were my own son'? Find reasons for your answer from the play.

Ans. When Lomov came to visit Chubukov's house dressed formally, Chubukov suspected that Lomov had come to borrow money. Therefore, he was not sincere when he told

Lomov that he had always loved him and that he was like his own son because he had decided not to give any money to Lomov. Only when Lomov asked for his daughter's hand in marriage did his attitude change, and he rushed out to call his daughter, Natalya.

2. Chubukov says of Natalya: "..... as if she won't consent! She's in love; egad, she's like a lovesick cat....." Would you agree? Find reasons for your answer.

Ans. Yes, it was true that Natalya would give her consent easily. It was clear by how she behaves when she learns that Lomov came to propose to her. She started weeping and asked her father to bring Lomov back at once. However, she didn't

³ **Palpitations:** noticeably rapid or irregular heartbeat

⁴ **Infuriated:** extremely angry

⁵ **Mowers:** a person who cuts grass; a machine which cuts grass

⁶ **Meadows:** a piece of grassland

⁷ **Defaming:** damage the good reputation of (someone)

seem to be in love with Lomov. It seemed that both of them were more concerned about their land and their dogs.

3. (i) Find all the words and expressions in the play that the characters use to speak about each other, and the accusations and insults they hurl at each other. (For example, Lomov in the end calls Chubukov an intriguer; but earlier, Chubukov has himself called Lomov a “malicious, double-faced intriguer.” Again, Lomov begins by describing Natalya as “an excellent housekeeper, not bad-looking, well-educated.”)
- (ii) Then think of five adjectives or adjectival expressions of your own to describe each character in the play.
- (iii) Can you now imagine what these characters will quarrel about next?

Ans. (i) The words and expressions that have been used to describe each other by various characters of the play are:

Chubukov: intriguer, grabber, old rat

Natalya: a lovesick cat, an excellent housekeeper, not bad-looking, well-educated.

Lomov: a good neighbour, impudent, pettifogger, malicious, double-faced intriguer, rascal, blind hen, turnip ghost, villain, scarecrow, stuffed sausage, etc.

- (ii) Lomov: assertive, weak-hearted, pretentious, proud, self-serving, argumentative.

Natalya: quarrelsome, foolish, idiotic, unwise, immature, mean

Chubukov: mean, assertive, low-minded, abusive, quarrelsome, insensible

- (iii) All three characters are short-tempered and would probably fight over any minor issue. Moreover, they would fight sooner rather than later.

MISCELLANEOUS EXERCISE

Multiple Choice Questions

1. What is the play about?
 - (a) Tendency of wealthy families to seek ties with other wealthy families.
 - (b) Tendency of wealthy families to increase their estates.
 - (c) Encouragement of marriages that make good economic sense.
 - (d) All of the above.
2. The word ‘proposal’ has several meanings can you guess what sort of proposal the play is about?
 - (a) A suggestion, plan or scheme for doing something.
 - (b) An offer for a possible plan or action.
 - (c) The act of asking someone’s hand in marriage.
 - (d) None of the above.
3. CHUBUKOV: [aside] He’s come to borrow money. Shan’t give him any!
The given line reflects that Chubukov is
 - (a) Selfish
 - (b) Pretentious⁸
 - (c) Greedy
 - (d) Hypocrite⁹
4. What is their first dispute over?
 - (a) Over the ownership of oxen meadows.
 - (b) Over their dogs.
 - (c) Over their marriage.
 - (d) Over Lomov’s health.
5. How much are the meadows worth approximately?

- (a) 200 roubles
- (b) 300 roubles
- (c) 400 roubles
- (d) 450 roubles

6. If, according to Chubukov and Natalya, Lomovs are not “honourable people”, why do they still consider Lomov’s proposal?

- (a) Natalya wanted to marry close by so she could take care of her father.
- (b) They were saying it for the sake of argument.
- (c) Lomov’s honour and status were overrated.
- (d) Lomov’s status is attractive to them.

7. “Are you going to a ball or what? Though I must say you look better...”

Who is speaking and to whom?

- (a) Natalya to Lomov
- (b) Lomov to Natalya
- (c) Chubukov to Lomov
- (d) Natalya to Chubukov

8. “And it’s impossible for me not to marry”. Who says this?

- (a) Lomov
- (b) Chubukov
- (c) Lomov’s grandmother
- (d) Natalya

9. Why was Natalya arguing about the land?

- (a) She liked to argue about anything.
- (b) It was worth a lot.
- (c) She can’t stand unfairness.
- (d) All of the above.

10. Who threatened to take the matter to court?

- (a) Chubukov
- (b) Lomov
- (c) Natalya
- (d) Anton Chekhov

⁸ **Pretentious:** attempting to impress artificial

⁹ **Hypocrite:** fraud; imposter; cheater

Extract-Based Questions

- I. Read the following extract and answer the questions/complete the sentences that follow: (5 M)**

LOMOV: It's cold... I'm trembling all over, just as if I'd got an examination before me. The great thing is, I must have my mind made up. If I give myself time to think, to hesitate, to talk a lot, to look for an ideal, or for real love, then I'll never get married. Brr...It's cold! Natalya Stepanovna is an excellent housekeeper, not bad-looking, well-educated. What more do I want? But I'm getting a noise in my ears from excitement. (Drinks) And it's impossible for me not to marry.

In the first place, I'm already 35_ a critical age, so to speak. In the second place, I ought to lead a quiet and regular life. I suffer from palpitations, I'm excitable and always getting awfully upset; at this very moment my lips are trembling, and there's a twitch in my right eyebrow. (CBSE SQP, 2023)

1. Which of the following is NOT a reason why Lomov thinks he must marry? (1)
 - A. He is already 35 years old.
 - B. He suffers from palpitations.
 - C. He is excitable and easily upset.
 - D. He is in love with Natalya.
2. Why is it fair to say that Lomov's tone, when he says "What more do I want?", is uncertain and questioning? Answer in about 40 words. (2)
3. Read the following descriptions (A)-(C) and identify which one correctly corresponds to the extract. (1)
 - A. A debate is a formal discussion on a particular topic, usually with two or more people presenting different viewpoints and arguments.
 - B. A soliloquy is a speech given by a character alone on stage, which reveals their innermost thoughts and feelings to the audience.
 - C. An aside is a brief comment or remark made by a character directly to the audience, which is not intended to be heard by other characters on stage.
4. If an actor were to enact this extract, what would he be required to focus on, while modulating his voice? (1)

- II. Read the following extract and answer the questions/complete the sentences that follow: (5 M)**

I can make you a present of them myself because they're mine! Your behaviour, Ivan Vassilevitch, is strange, to say the least! Up to this, we have always thought of you as a good neighbour, a friend; last year we lent you our threshing machine, although on that account we had to put off our own threshing till November, you behave to us as if we were gypsies. Giving me my own land, indeed! No, really, that's not at all neighbourly! In my opinion, it's even impudent, if you want to know.

- 1. The word "impudent" in the passage most closely means:**

(1)

- (a) Friendly
- (b) Polite
- (c) Arrogant
- (d) Generous

- 2. Which of the following statements represents the speaker's opinion? (1)**

- (a) "Your behavior is strange, to say the least!"
- (b) "We have always thought of you as a good neighbor, a friend."
- (c) "You behaved to us as if we were gypsies."
- (d) "Last year we lent you our threshing machine, although on that account we had to put off our own threshing till November."

- 3. Based on the passage, what can be inferred about the speaker's relationship with Ivan Vassilevitch? (1)**

- 4. How does the speaker feel about Ivan Vassilevitch giving them their own land? (2)**

- III. Read the following extract and answer the questions/complete the sentences that follow: (5 M)**

Natalya Stepanovna is an excellent housekeeper, not bad-looking, well-educated. What more do I want? But I'm getting a noise in my ears from excitement. [Drinks] And it's impossible for me not to marry. In the first place, I'm already 35 — a critical age, so to speak. In the second place, I ought to lead a quiet and regular life. I suffer from palpitations, I'm excitable and always getting awfully upset; at this very moment my lips are trembling, and there's a twitch in my right eyebrow. But the very worst of all is the way I sleep.

1. What is the main reason for Natalya Stepanovna's desire to get married? (1)
 - (a) She wants to have children.
 - (b) She wants to lead a quiet life.
 - (c) She is in love with someone.
 - (d) She wants financial stability.
2. Based on the passage, what can be inferred about Natalya Stepanovna's current emotional state? (1)
3. What does "palpitations" mean in the context of the passage? (1)
4. What are the two main reasons Natalya Stepanovna gives for feeling compelled to get married? (2)

- IV. Read the following extract and answer the questions/complete the sentences that follow: (5 M)**

Lomov: But you can see from the documents, honoured Natalya Stepanovna. Oxen Meadows, its true were once the subject of dispute, but now everybody knows they are mine. There's nothing to argue about. You see my aunts grandmother gave the free use of these Meadows in perpetuity to the peasants of your father's grandfather,

in return for which they were to make bricks for her. The peasants belonging to your father's grandfather had the free use of Meadows for forty years, and had got into the habit of regarding them as their own, when it happened that.....

Natalya: No, it isn't at all like that! Both grandfather and great grandfather reckoned that their land extended to Burnt Marsh -which means Oxen Meadows were ours. I don't see what there is to argue about, its simply silly. (CBSE, 2023)

1. The subject of dispute was regarding (1)
 - (a) free use of Meadows
 - (b) making of bricks
 - (c) peasants using Meadows
 - (d) ownership of Meadows
2. Find the word from the extract which means 'continuance': (1)
 - (a) dispute
 - (b) perpetuity
 - (c) belonging
 - (d) reckoned
3. Lomov's aunt's grandmother gave Oxen Meadows to Natalya's father's grandfather in lieu of (1)
4. According to Natalya why did Oxen Meadows belong to them? (1)
5. Fill in the blank with ONE WORD only: (1)

The peasants had free use of Meadows for years.

Subjective Questions

Short Answer Questions (40-50 words) (3 M)

1. Which two issues about himself convinced Lomov of his decision to get married? (CBSE SQP, 2021)
2. Natalya was not Lomov's real love. But still, he wanted to marry her. Give reasons for his decision.
3. How did Chubukov react when Lomov asked for the hand of his daughter in marriage? (CBSE, 2023)
4. Why does Natalya have an argument with Lomov? What is the end result?
5. Describe how Chubukov married Natalya to Lomov.

Long Answer Questions (100-120 words) (6 M)

6. Farce is a kind of comedy which includes situations and dialogues that are ridiculous, exaggerated and even absurd. Evaluate the play, The Proposal, as a farce. (CBSE SQP, 2021)
7. The proposal of the marriage was forgotten amidst the arguments over petty things. Which right approach should have been followed by Lomov and Natalya? (CBSE, 2020)
8. The characters Natalya and Lomov lose their temper on unimportant issues. What does it show and which skill they both are required to have? Suggest some ways that help you in maintaining good and healthy relationships with people around you.

ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

Answer Key

Multiple Choice Questions

1. (d) 2. (c) 3. (a) 4. (a) 5. (b) 6. (d) 7. (a) 8. (a) 9. (c) 10. (b)

Explanations

Extract-Based Questions

1. (d) He is in love with Natalya.
2. Lomov's tone when he says "What more do I want?" is uncertain and questioning because he is trying to

convince himself that Natalya Stepanovna is a suitable match for him, but at the same time, he seems to be struggling with doubts and fears. His tone suggests that he is trying to reassure himself that he has made the right decision, but he is not entirely convinced.

3. (b) A soliloquy is a speech given by a character alone on stage, which reveals their innermost thoughts and feelings to the audience. [cannot be (a) as it is not a formal discussion and cannot be (c) because what he speaks is certainly not brief]
4. The actor would be required to convey Lomov's nervousness and excitement through his voice modulation. [For example, he could raise his voice when Lomov is getting excited or lower it when he is feeling anxious.]

II. 1. (c) Arrogant

2. (a) "Your behavior is strange, to say the least!"
3. The speaker's relationship with Ivan Vassilevitch was previously positive and friendly.
4. The speaker is clearly displeased and finds Ivan Vassilevitch's act of giving them their own land impudent and lacking in neighbourly behaviour. They express their opinion, stating, "No, really, that's not at all neighbourly! In my opinion, it's even impudent, if you want to know."

III. 1. (b) She wants to lead a quiet life.

2. Natalya Stepanovna is anxious and restless, experiencing emotional turmoil and seeking stability in her life.
3. Rapid or irregular heartbeat.
4. Natalya Stepanovna provides two main reasons for feeling compelled to get married. Firstly, she mentions being 35 years old, which she considers a critical age. Secondly, she desires to lead a quiet and regular life due to her excitable nature, health issues, and the way she sleeps.

IV. 1. (d) ownership of Meadows

2. (b) perpetuity
3. the services provided by his peasants who built bricks for her.
4. Natalya said that her grandfather and great grandfather believed their land extended all the way to Burnt Marsh. As a result, she believed Oxen Meadows to be her family's property.
5. forty

The worst of his problems is sleeping and getting up because of a pull he feels almost twenty times. As a result, he decided to get married to his neighbour Chubukov's daughter, Natalya.



Nailing the Right Answer

Here, students need an answer to the points Lomov thought about himself. Those favouring Natalya are not relevant here.

2. Even though Lomov was not in love with Natalya, he decided to marry her because he badly wanted a companion. He was a thirty-five-year-old bachelor who was sick with heart ailments. The worst of his problems was sleeping and getting up because of a pull he felt almost twenty times. He needed a companion who could take care of him.

He believed that he must have his mind made up. If he gave himself time to think or fall in love with someone, he would never get married! Thus, he convinced himself that Natalya was a suitable match for him as she was average looking, well-educated and a good housekeeper.

3. Chubukov felt extremely happy and told Lomov that he had been 'hoping for it for a long time'.

In fact, extreme joy threw him a little off his balance, and in his excitement, he hurriedly called for his daughter to meet Lomov. He was certain that his daughter was going to grab the opportunity without any hesitation.

4. Lomov and Natalya argued over a plot of property. They were both passionate about claiming the same piece of land, Oxen Meadows. They then fought over their dogs to show one's superiority over the other.

Lomov and Natalya cannot agree on which dog is superior because Natalya is proud of her dog, Squeezer, who is young and has a pedigree, whereas Lomov considers it uppershot and boasts of his pet 'Guess,' which he considers to be a first-rate dog. Natalya, on the other hand, thinks 'Guess' is as old and ugly as an old taxi horse. After Chubukov's entrance, the situation becomes worse, and Lomov leaves Chubukov's house.

5. Chubukov assumed Lomov had come to borrow money from him, but when he learned that he had come to propose to his daughter, he burst into tears. He kissed and hugged Lomov. He told Lomov that he had been wishing for this for a long time.

He also informed Lomov that he adored him as if he were his own kid. Actually Chubukov secretly desired Lomov would marry his daughter since he knew Lomov was a wealthy farmer and his only daughter, Natalya could live comfortably with him. He was pleased to learn that Lomov was there to propose to his daughter.

Subjective Questions

Short Answer Questions

CBSE Marking Scheme: Content-1 M, Organisation of Ideas-1 M, Accuracy-1 M

1. Lomov was convinced that it was time to settle and lead a quiet and regular life. He was at the critical age of thirty-five and still unmarried. Moreover, he needed a partner as he suffered from palpitations and was always getting upset.

SELECTED LAQs

As per the latest pattern observed in CBSE Board Exam 2024 for Q. 10 & Q.11

CBSE Marking Scheme: Content-3 M, Expression-2 M, Accuracy-1 M

- 1. Evaluate the impact of friendship and companionship in both “Mijbil the Otter” and “From the Diary of Anne Frank.”**

Compare and contrast the significance of friendship in the lives of the main characters, highlighting the role it plays in their emotional well-being, support system, and overall survival. Write this presentation draft, including your insights, in about 120 words.

You may begin this way:

One acknowledges that both “Mijbil the Otter” and “From the Diary of Anne Frank” emphasize the importance of friendship and companionship in the lives of their main characters.

Ans. Good morning! Today, I want to discuss the importance of friendship in both the stories: "From the Diary of Anne Frank" and "Mijbil the Otter." In "Mijbil the Otter," a man and an otter named Mijbil share a special friendship that provides comfort and delight, particularly during difficult times. This special friendship demonstrates the value of friends in providing companionship and a sense of happiness. In "From the Diary of Anne Frank," Anne considers Kitty, her diary, to be her closest companion. She expresses in Kitty her deepest feelings, which helps her get through difficult times. These stories demonstrate the value and strength of friendship by providing us with consolation, courage, and a sense of understanding. Thank you.

- 2. In the chapter ‘Bholi,’ explore the theme of self-acceptance and the power of inner strength. Discuss how Bholi’s journey from insecurity to self-confidence highlights the transformative nature of self-acceptance. Support your answer with relevant examples from the chapter, emphasizing key moments that showcase Bholi’s growth and the impact of her inner strength on her life. Write your response in about 120 words.**

Ans. Bholi’s journey from insecurity to self-confidence in the chapter “Bholi” exemplifies the transformative nature of self-acceptance. Initially, Bholi is burdened by her physical appearance and speech impairment, leading to low self-esteem. However, her encounter with the compassionate teacher, at her school becomes a reason for change. Her understanding and support enabled Bholi to believe in herself and express her thoughts. Bholi’s newfound confidence is further reinforced when she confronts her

elders who were ready to marry her to a man asking for dowry from her father. Additionally, her decision to reject the marriage proposal from the rich but greedy man-Bishamber showcases her self-worth and determination to prioritize her own happiness. Through these key moments, Bholi’s growth highlights the power of self-acceptance in transforming one’s life.

- 3. You have been asked to present an evaluation of the theme of “faith” in both “A Letter to God” and “The Ball Poem.” Write this presentation draft including your insights, in about 120 words, comparing the theme of faith in both.**

You may begin this way: *One acknowledges that both “A Letter to God” and “The Ball Poem” portray characters who face challenging situations that test their faith; however, ...*

(Reference - “A Letter to God” and “The Ball Poem”)

Ans. Good morning! Today, I want to share how the stories "A Letter to God" and "The Ball Poem" explore the idea of faith during tough times. In "A Letter to God," Lencho, a farmer, believes strongly in God. After a storm ruins his crops, he asks God for money, showing his complete trust in God's help. Meanwhile, "The Ball Poem" tells us about a boy who loses his ball and feels very sad. This loss teaches him an important lesson about life's ups and downs and the importance of believing in oneself. Lencho's story shows faith in God, and the boy's story teaches us to have faith in ourselves and appreciate the happy moments. Both stories highlight the power of faith in overcoming challenges.

- 4. You have been asked to present an evaluation of the character of Nelson Mandela and the theme of “resilience” in both “Nelson Mandela” and “Trees.” Write this presentation draft including your insights, in about 120 words, comparing the character of Mandela and the theme of resilience in both.**

You may begin this way: *One acknowledges that both texts “Nelson Mandela” and “Trees” exhibit remarkable resilience in the face of adversity; however, ...*

(Reference - “Nelson Mandela” and “The Trees”)

Ans. Good morning! Today, I’d like to discuss the powerful theme of resilience in “Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom” and the poem “The Trees.” Nelson Mandela

is a hero who bravely fought against unfair laws in South Africa, showing incredible strength and never giving up, even when things got really tough. In “The Trees,” the poet talks about how trees stand strong through storms and tough weather, showing us how to keep going no matter what. Mandela’s story is about fighting for what’s right, while the trees remind us of our inner strength. Both stories teach us about being resilient, which means not giving up, even when facing hard times. Mandela’s fight and the enduring trees both inspire us to stay strong. Thank you.

- 5. Imagine that Mrs. Pumphrey, from ‘A Triumph of Surgery,’ writes a diary entry reflecting on her own misconceptions about care and affection toward pets, especially in the context of her experience with Tricki. Write this diary entry, as Mrs. Pumphrey, in about 120 words.**

Ans. Dear Diary,

Today made me think a lot. I always thought giving Tricki lots of food and treats was the way to show love. But I was so wrong! After sending him to the vet, I’ve learned that too much of anything is bad. Mr. Herriot helped Tricki get healthier and happier with just the basics: good food in right amounts and plenty of exercise. It wasn’t fancy creams or luxury beds that Tricki needed. It was simple care and attention. I’ve learned that love isn’t about giving things, but about providing what’s really needed.

Mrs. Pumphrey

- 6. Present an evaluation of the character development in both “His First Flight” and “Amanda.” Compare and contrast the growth and transformation of the main characters in both stories, focusing on their aspirations, challenges faced, and the impact of their experiences on their personal development. Write this presentation draft, including your insights, in about 120 words.**

You may begin this way:

One acknowledges that both “His First Flight” and “Amanda” showcase the journey of their main characters, highlighting their aspirations and the obstacles encountered along the way.

Ans. Good morning, everyone. Today, I’d like to discuss the development and transformation of the two major characters in the stories, “His First Flight” and “Amanda.” A baby bird that is first afraid of flying is shown in “His First Flight”. But when he finally tries, he loves the freedom and learns to be brave. We encounter a girl in “Amanda” who feels frustrated by her mother’s constant criticism. For freedom and happiness, she longs to be someone else. The stories demonstrate how these characters overcome obstacles, pursue their dreams, and grow as a result of their experiences. They convey us important lessons about bravery, achieving independence, and having the inner strength to face hardship. Thank you.

- 7. A character arc is the transformation or development of a character throughout a story and refers to the changes a character undergoes as a result of their experiences, challenges, and interactions with other characters. In the light of the above information, trace the character arc of Bholi in “Bholi,” in about 120 words.**

Ans. In “Bholi,” we see an amazing story of a girl named Bholi who starts off feeling shy and unsure of herself because she looks different and has trouble speaking clearly. She often gets picked on, which makes her feel even worse. But everything begins to change when she meets a caring teacher who believes in her and encourages her to go to school. This kind act helps Bholi find hope and courage. As she learns more at school, Bholi becomes confident and strong, ready to stand up for herself and challenge what people expect from her. Her story is about learning to accept herself, realizing how powerful education can be, and daring to be different from what others might want her to be.

- 8. You have been asked to present an evaluation of the approaches of “Gautama Buddha” and “Nelson Mandela” towards alleviating suffering and bringing about change. Write this presentation draft including your insights, in about 120 words, comparing the approaches of both influential figures.**

(Reference- The Sermon at Benaras and Nelson Mandela - Long Walk to Freedom)

Ans. Gautama Buddha and Nelson Mandela took different but impactful routes to alleviate suffering and induce change. Buddha, witnessing the inevitable sufferings of life—birth, aging, illness, and death—sought enlightenment and shared his wisdom in the Sermon at Benaras. His approach was spiritual and aimed at individual enlightenment for collective well-being. Mandela, on the other hand, took a more political route. Imprisoned for 27 years, his fight was against the concrete social injustice of apartheid. He aimed for legislative change and social equality. While Buddha provides a philosophical solution to life’s sufferings, Mandela gives a practical, social one. Both are different but essential ways to address the human condition.

- 9. A character arc is the transformation or development of a character throughout a story and refers to the changes a character undergoes as a result of their experiences, challenges, and interactions with other characters. In the light of the above information, trace the character arc of Mathilda Loisel in the chapter ‘The Necklace’ from ‘Footprints without Feet,’ in about 120 words.**

Ans. In “The Necklace” from “Footprints without Feet,” Mathilda Loisel isn’t happy with her simple life and dreams of being rich. Her life changes when she borrows a necklace for a fancy party from her friend, Madame Forestier, but loses it. Instead of telling the truth, she buys a new one, leading to huge debt. Mathilda works hard for years to pay it off, learning about hard work and humility. When she finally tells Madame Forestier the truth, she learns the necklace was fake and not worth much. This shocks Mathilda and makes her understand that chasing after wealth and status was a mistake. She learns to value honesty, thankfulness, and being happy with what you have. Mathilda’s story shows us that things aren’t always what they seem and that true value comes from who we are, not what we own.

MOCK TEST PAPER-1

Time allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 80

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Read the following instructions carefully and follow them:

- (i) This question paper comprises **11** questions. All questions are compulsory
- (ii) The question paper contains **THREE** section-

Section A – Reading Skills

Section B – Grammar and Creative Writing Skills

Section C – Literature

- (iii) Attempt question based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION - A

READING SKILLS

(20 marks)

1. Read the following text.

(10 m)

1. Income inequality is a pressing social issue that affects individuals and communities worldwide. It refers to the unequal distribution of wealth and resources among different groups of people. In today's society, the gap between the rich and the poor continues to widen, creating significant disparities in opportunities and living conditions. This passage aims to shed light on the causes, consequences, and potential solutions to income inequality, inviting readers to reflect on the impact it has on our society.
2. To understand income inequality, it is crucial to examine its root causes. One of the primary drivers is the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few individuals or corporations. This concentration is often fueled by factors such as tax policies that favor the wealthy, limited access to quality education and job opportunities for marginalized communities, and systemic biases within the economic system. These factors perpetuate a cycle of inequality, making it challenging for those born into poverty to break free from its grip.
3. The consequences of income inequality are far-reaching and affect various aspects of individuals' lives. Financial instability, limited access to healthcare and education, and increased crime rates are just a few examples. Income inequality also widens the gap between social classes, leading to social unrest and a breakdown in social cohesion. Moreover, it hampers economic growth and perpetuates a cycle of poverty, as those with limited resources struggle to invest in their future and improve their living conditions.
4. Behind the statistics and figures, income inequality has a profound human impact. Imagine a society where hard work and determination are not enough to escape poverty, where opportunities are scarce, and dreams seem out of reach. This reality is the daily struggle for millions of individuals trapped in the cycle of income inequality. It is essential to recognize the inherent value and potential within every person, regardless of their socioeconomic background, and work towards creating a fairer and more inclusive society.
5. Addressing income inequality requires a multi-faceted approach. Governments can play a crucial role by implementing policies that promote wealth redistribution, such as progressive taxation and increased social welfare programs. Additionally, investing in quality education, job training, and affordable housing can empower individuals to break free from the cycle of poverty. It is also vital for businesses and individuals with wealth and influence to contribute to social causes and support initiatives that aim to reduce income inequality.

6. In conclusion, income inequality is a complex social issue that demands our attention and action. By understanding its root causes, recognizing its consequences, and exploring potential solutions, we can work towards creating a more equitable and just society. It is our collective responsibility to strive for a world where everyone has equal opportunities to thrive and succeed, regardless of their socioeconomic background. Let us stand together and advocate for a fairer future.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- (i) Which of the following best describes the author's attitude towards income inequality? 1
- (a) The author believes income inequality is a natural and unavoidable consequence of economic systems.
(b) The author believes income inequality is a minor issue that does not significantly impact society.
(c) The author believes income inequality is a pressing social issue that needs to be addressed.
(d) The author believes income inequality is a result of individual choices and should not be a concern for society.
- (ii) What is the tone of the writer in the given lines from paragraph 4? Rationalize your response in about 40 words: 2
- Behind the statistics and figures, income inequality has a profound human impact. Imagine a society where hard work and determination are not enough to escape poverty, where opportunities are scarce, and dreams seem out of reach. This reality is the daily struggle for millions of individuals trapped in the cycle of income inequality.*
- (iii) Complete the sentence appropriately: 1
- The author's main argument in the paragraph is to _____.
- (iv) From the sets below, identify the set of synonyms based on the paragraph: 1
- (a) Rich - Poor (b) Wealth - Resources
(c) Limited - Abundant (d) Breakdown - Cohesion
(e) Increase - Reduce
- (v) Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
- Based on the reading of the paragraph, it can be inferred that the author's perspective on income inequality is _____.
- (vi) Based on the reading of the paragraph, compare the author's viewpoint on income inequality to the concept of climate change. Explain in about 40 words. 2
- (vii) What message is conveyed by the example of limited access to healthcare and education in the paragraph? 1
- (a) Limited access to healthcare and education leads to increased crime rates.
(b) Limited access to healthcare and education perpetuates income inequality.
(c) Limited access to healthcare and education is a consequence of income inequality.
(d) Limited access to healthcare and education is a minor issue that does not significantly impact society.
- (viii) Classify the following lines from the paragraph as causes/consequences/solutions: 1
- Governments can play a crucial role by implementing policies that promote wealth redistribution, such as progressive taxation and increased social welfare programs.

2. Read the following text.

(10 m)

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) have revolutionized various industries, from healthcare to finance, by enabling machines to perform tasks that traditionally required human intelligence. AI refers to the simulation of human intelligence in machines, while ML focuses on the development of algorithms that allow machines to learn from and make predictions or decisions based on data.
- The significance of AI and ML lies in their ability to analyze vast amounts of data and extract valuable insights. For instance, in healthcare, AI-powered systems can analyze medical records, identify patterns, and assist in diagnosing diseases. In finance, ML algorithms can predict market trends and optimize investment strategies. Moreover, AI and ML have also made significant advancements in natural language processing, computer vision, and robotics.
- To support these claims, statistical data reveals the exponential growth in AI and ML adoption. According to a report by Gartner, the global AI market is projected to reach \$190 billion by 2025. Additionally, a survey conducted by Deloitte found that 82% of organizations have reported a positive return on investment from their AI initiatives.
- In conclusion, the advancements in AI and ML have transformed various industries, offering unprecedented opportunities for efficiency, accuracy, and innovation. However, ethical considerations and the potential impact on employment should also be taken into account. As AI and ML continue to evolve, further exploration and research are necessary to harness their full potential while addressing the associated challenges.

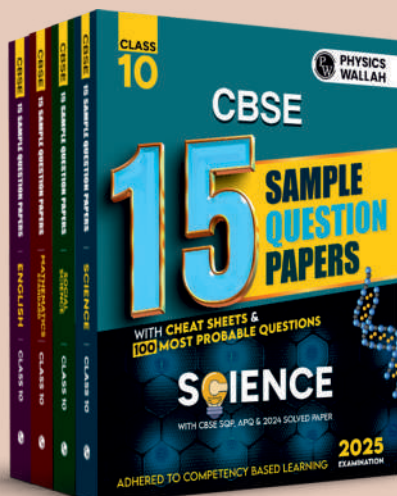
Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- (i) Complete the following analogy based on your understanding of the paragraph: 1
- Just as AI is comparable to ML, the ability to analyze vast amounts of data is to _____ because _____?

Other Helpful Books



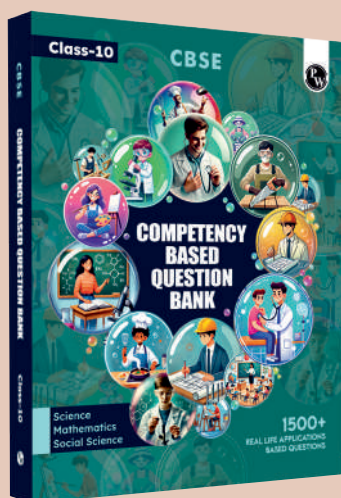
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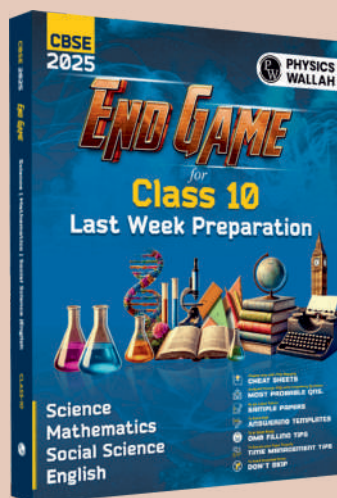
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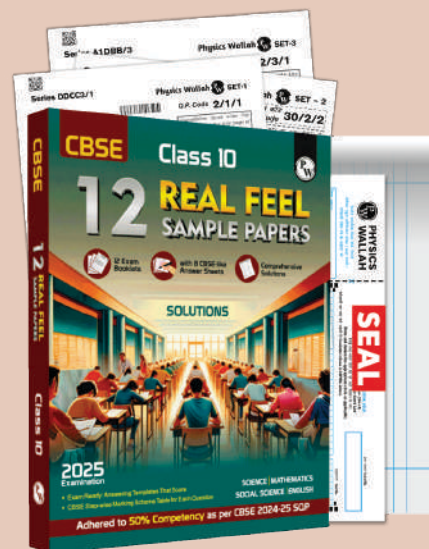
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