

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

CHAPTERS	ENGLISH											
	2020		2022		2023		2024		2025			
	DL	ODL	DL	ODL	DL	ODL	DL	ODL	DL	ODL	DL	ODL
Reading Comprehension	20	20	10	10	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Grammar	12	12	5	5	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	12
Formal Letter	8	8	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	8
Analytical Paragraph	—	—	5	5	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	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	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	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.

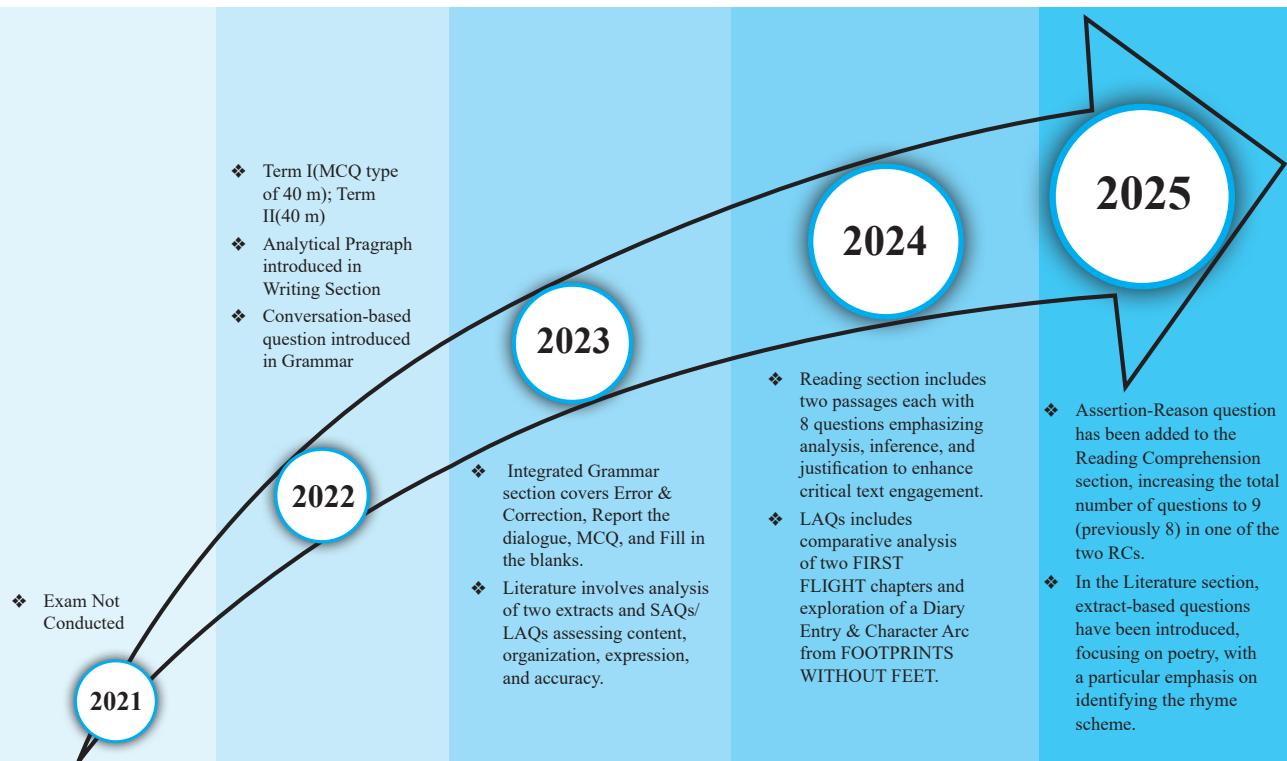
*The marks allotment mentioned above is chapter-wise and includes internal choice questions as well. Therefore, the total might not match the Maximum Marks of the respective Previous Year Paper. Here, DL is Delhi, ODL is Outside Delhi.

*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



HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

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 of 2025, 2024 & 2023 with Handwritten Answers: Get yourself updated with the latest Board Question Papers. With handwritten answers learn the practical application of concepts and effective answering techniques that can score high marks.

CBSE Solved Paper

CBSE SOLVED PAPER 2024

3. Complete any of the following two tasks, as directed. (10 x 1 = 10)
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,

(i) Surprise

(ii) Read the given sentence 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 upto two days.
Use the given format for your response:

Error	Correction
(ii) Error	ought to

(iii) Tamu and Amit had a conversation about the execution of Tamu's travel plan.
Report Amit's question.

READING COMPREHENSION

Preview

Steps to attempt Reading Comprehension

- Avoid overemphasizing details: While details are important, focus on understanding the main point rather than getting caught up in examples and illustrations. Comprehending the overall flow and structure will help in analyzing and answering questions.
- Don't memorize: There is no need to memorize every word in the passage. Prioritize understanding the flow, structure, and main idea of the passage. You can always refer back to the text if you need to.
- Read the questions first: Before reading the passage, go through the questions. This prepares you to focus on the information you need to find in the passage. Focus on the questions themselves rather than a specific answer option. A quick overview of the questions will help you answer them more effectively.
- Vocabulary skills are not the primary focus: While having a strong vocabulary is beneficial, not having an extensive vocabulary won't prevent you from understanding the passage. Focus on grasping the main idea and don't get stuck on unfamiliar words.
- Objective-Type Questions: To find the correct option in Multiple Choice Questions, go through all the options. Re-read the passage and then tick the correct option. To find answers to vocabulary-based questions like synonyms, antonyms etc., replace the word with the meaning if you find it is the same in meaning, the answer is correct.

Preview

Exercise with Explanations

Reading Skills

Before you start each Reading Comprehension, the Preview will give you an overview of the highlights of this topic & steps to do an unseen passage.

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

I DISCOURSE PASSAGE

Passage-I

Reading passage given below. (10 marks)

This process allows children to work through trial and error methods to find out what is the different way to do something more effectively. This is an important step in their evolution of the learning environment in the past 25 years. Many schools have now adopted this method of teaching. This is to introduce new technology options for students. Instead of using traditional methods of teaching, they have a laboratory environment for the entire school placed in one room. This is to help students learn in a more effective way. By introducing technology to the classroom, there are fewer chances of students getting bored. This is to help students to introduce new subjects, try new techniques, or use different processes to learn. This is to help students to learn in a more effective environment.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- What is the meaning of the word "engagement" as used in the passage? (i) The act of participating or being involved (ii) The process of connecting or interacting with others (iii) The act of communicating or interacting with others (iv) In the passage, replace the word "technology" with a synonym. (v) Complete the following line with a phrase from the passage. "Technology helps children to stay motivated during the learning process. Many students don't like to go to school if they don't have any motivation. Technology motivates students to stay motivated during the learning process. It gives them a chance to push harder for themselves and their studies. Many of the students that are not interested in learning now become interested in school certificates. Which helps

ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

Discourse Passage

Passage-I

- (i) The act of participating or being involved (ii) The process of connecting or interacting with others (iii) The act of communicating or interacting with others (iv) In the passage, replace the word "technology" with a synonym. (v) Complete the following line with a phrase from the passage. "Technology helps children to stay motivated during the learning process. Many students don't like to go to school if they don't have any motivation. Technology motivates students to stay motivated during the learning process. It gives them a chance to push harder for themselves and their studies. Many of the students that are not interested in learning now become interested in school certificates. Which helps

- (i) The act of participating or being involved (ii) The process of connecting or interacting with others (iii) The act of communicating or interacting with others (iv) In the passage, replace the word "technology" with a synonym. (v) Complete the following line with a phrase from the passage. "Technology helps children to stay motivated during the learning process. Many students don't like to go to school if they don't have any motivation. Technology motivates students to stay motivated during the learning process. It gives them a chance to push harder for themselves and their studies. Many of the students that are not interested in learning now become interested in school certificates. Which helps

Preview

Exercise with Explanations

Ans. A-41, Pimpri,

Delhi

28th February, 2024

The Editor

Hindustan Times

New Delhi

Subject: Urgent need to create awareness about utilizing

subways

Dear Editor,

I am a resident of Pimpri, Delhi and I am writing this

letter to bring to your attention the urgent need to create

awareness about utilizing subways in Delhi. It is sad to see that the infrastructure

built to ease pollution, traffic, is abandoned and ignored. Pedestrian plazas try to ease access to traffic, but the city causes inconvenience but also puts them at risk of accidents. Furthermore, the accumulation of sewage water and debris in these plazas is a major problem. This not only makes it difficult for pedestrians to use them but also poses a serious health hazard. Therefore, it is important to create awareness among pedestrians about the importance of using subways. This will not only help in reducing traffic and pollution but also make our city a better and safer place to live in.

Yours sincerely

Rehan

Letter for Placing an Order

4. You are the Head of the school in-charge of Mahanand Public School, Bangalore. Blackboards are to be replaced by smart boards. You wish to place an order for fifteen smart boards and computer accessories. Write a letter of enquiry to Economic Comptch.

M.G. Road, Bangalore, enquiring about prices, discounts and after sales service. (5)

Topper's Explanations

FORMAL LETTER

Preview

Formal letters are written in a strict and specific format. They are naturally much more formal in style than informal friendly letters.

Key highlights:

- Use polite, simple, and everyday language to convey the message clearly.
- Avoid using abbreviations as much as possible.
- Carefully use the information provided in the question.
- The modes of address and name of sender/receiver vary according to the type of letter and the receiver.
- Check and edit the description of the articles required with the expected quality and quantity should be listed when writing a letter for placing an order.

Format:

- Sender's address:** While writing the address, do not put a comma at the end of each line. e.g.,
D-200
Aman Vihar
New Delhi- 210031
- Date:** While writing the date, remember the day is written in figures, the month in words and the year in full figures. (Do not write the month in full e.g., 15 September, 2023)
- Receiver's address:** The receiver can be the firm's name or the one who represents the firm. Make sure to use the name provided in the question. e.g.,
The Editor
The Times of India
Darya Ganj
Delhi- 110002
- Subject:** Subject must be as brief as possible, with a maximum of three or four words. It expresses the main theme or crux of the letter clearly.
- Salutation:** In official letters, we generally use Dear Sir/Madam. If the person, who is going to read the letter, is known to you, you can address him by name. e.g.,
Dear Mr. Arora
- Body:**
 - (i) Introductory Paragraph/Sentence:** States the purpose of writing.
 - (ii) Informative Paragraph:** Details of the problem, cause, effect, possible solution etc.
 - (iii) Concluding Paragraph/Sentence:** States your hope, concern, and suggestion etc.
- Closing:** States the name of the person who is writing the letter. For this, we write Yours truly/Yours sincerely/Yours faithfully/Yours truly (largely accepted). Yours truly - for editor and Yours sincerely- formal/business.
- Note:** The first letter of the second word (here, 'Y', 'Y', 'Y') is never written in capital letters.
- Closing:** Name, Signature and Designation (if given)

Topper's Explanations

Writing Skills

A detailed Format guide for the writing tasks (Formal Letter and Analytical Paragraph) will provide the structure you need to craft your pieces effectively.

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

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 Dut with 1st 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 ₃ + O	S + had been + V ₁ + ing) + since/for + O
Future	S + will/shall + O	S + will/shall be + (V ₁ + ing) + O	S + will/ shall + O	S + will/ shall + 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

Integrated Grammar

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

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

- Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the brackets.

(CBSE, 2022)

Government are starting programmes _____ (teach) adults how to read and write.

 - (a) that teaching
 - (b) which taught
 - (c) to teach
 - (d) were teaching
- 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
- If he _____ earlier, he wouldn't have missed the beginning of the seminar.

ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

Fill in the blanks

1. (d) is

Ex. 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.

2. (c) will have started

Ex. 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.

3. (d) had been

Ex. This sentence describes an action that was completed before another past action. "Had been" is the correct past form of the past perfect tense to use here.

4. (b) Would

Ex. "Would you mind" is the correct polite form to ask someone to do something.

Ex. This question is about the third conditional for hypothetical situations in the past. "Had arrived" correctly forms the conditional part of a sentence expressing a situation that didn't happen.

12. (d) could

Ex. In this sentence, the speaker is referring to an ability that he had in the past, which is appropriately expressed using "could", the past tense form of "can". "Can" is used for possibilities, "must" for obligations, and "might" for possibilities.

13. (c) nodded

Ex. This question is about past tense agreement with a past verb expression. "Nodded" is correct for a past action where everyone showed agreement.

14. (a) is bound to

Ex. 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

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: The protagonist of the story. He was a poor innocent farmer who lived in a simple house, as 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 calamity², he kept his faith intact and turned to God for help.
- Postmaster: The postmaster was an amiable³ fellow. He was a kind, sensible and empathetic⁴ 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 dismay⁵ 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 locusts⁶ would have left more than this."

¹Incapable of feeling or expressing sympathy
²Calamity: a灾厄
³Amiable: friendly

⁴Empathetic: ability to understand other's feelings
⁵Dismay: checks surprise
⁶Plague of locusts: an uncontrollable increase in number of insect

CBSE Class - X ENGLISH

Narrative Sketch/Poetic Sketch

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.

Synopsis

which usually symbolizes bad omen⁷, 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 rued⁸.

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 inauspicious⁹ 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.

⁷災厄: of little value or importance
⁸憾: hold in regret
⁹不祥: unfortunate

Literary Devices

Alliteration: Repetition of two or more closely related words beginning with a common sound.

"Has given my heart".

"And saved some part."

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

"The snow lay on me" - 'o' sound is prominent.

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

Dust of Snow

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, Organization 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

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 "Mighi 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 answer in 200 words.

You may begin this way:

One acknowledges that both "Mighi 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, I would discuss the importance of friendship in both the stories: "From the Diary of Anne Frank" and "Mighi the Otter". In "Mighi the Otter", a man and an otter named Mighi share a special friendship.

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 Bishambher shows how her strength and resilience help to protect her happiness. Through these key moments, Bholi's growth highlights the power of self-acceptance in transforming one's life.

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

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

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 question 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 teacher, tried to instill good values 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 seeking alms 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.

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.

misde: in the middle of
diversity: 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)

5. Who or what did Lencho have in mind? What did he do?

Ans. Amidst the adversity⁸ Lencho was in, he still had faith in God. He believed that God sees everything, even what is deep in one's conscience⁹, and would ease his pain. He wrote God a letter demanding a hundred pesos to sow his field again.

6. Who read the letter?

Ans. The postmaster read the letter.

7. 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

*Conscience: 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.

MISCELLANEOUS EXERCISE

Multiple Choice Questions

1. It was a celebration of South Africa's first _____ government.

- (a) Non-democratic, racial.
- (b) Democratic, non-racial.
- (c) Non-democratic, non-racial.
- (d) Monarch, racial.

2. Mandela is known as a "newborn" because:

- (a) The role 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 honorable 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 black-skinned peoples of South Africa patched up their differences and erected a system of racial domination against the dark-skinned people...

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'.

⁸Overwhelmed: have a strong emotional effect

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.

CONTENTS

Section-A

CBSE SOLVED PAPER 2025

I-XVI

READING SKILLS

1. READING COMPREHENSION
- I. DISCURSIVE PASSAGE
- II. CASE-BASED PASSAGE



3-23

WRITING SKILLS

2. FORMAL LETTER
3. ANALYTICAL PARAGRAPH



24-37

38-42

Section-B

GRAMMAR

4. TENSES
5. MODALS
6. SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT
7. REPORTED SPEECH
8. DETERMINERS
9. INTEGRATED GRAMMAR



43-46

47-49

50-52

53-55

56-58

59-73

Section-C

LITERATURE

FIRST FLIGHT

Prose

1. A LETTER TO GOD
2. NELSON MANDELA: LONG WALK TO FREEDOM
3. TWO STORIES ABOUT FLYING



74-84

85-94

95-109

4. FROM THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK	110-119
5. GLIMPSES OF INDIA	120-138
6. MIJBIL THE OTTER	139-147
7. MADAM RIDES THE BUS	148-157
8. THE SERMON AT BENARES	158-165
9. THE PROPOSAL	166-173

Poetry

1. DUST OF SNOW	174-180
2. FIRE AND ICE	181-187
3. A TIGER IN THE ZOO	188-195
4. HOW TO TELL WILD ANIMALS	196-204
5. THE BALL POEM	205-213
6. AMANDA!	214-221
7. THE TREES	222-228
8. FOG	229-235
9. THE TALE OF CUSTARD THE DRAGON	236-245
10. FOR ANNE GREGORY	246-251

FOOTPRINTS WITHOUT FEET

1. A TRIUMPH OF SURGERY	252-258
2. THE THIEF'S STORY	259-266
3. THE MIDNIGHT VISITOR	267-273
4. A QUESTION OF TRUST	274-280
5. FOOTPRINTS WITHOUT FEET	281-288
6. THE MAKING OF A SCIENTIST	289-296
7. THE NECKLACE	297-304
8. BHOLI	305-312
9. THE BOOK THAT SAVED THE EARTH	313-319

SELECTED LAQs

MOCK TEST PAPER-1	329-340
MOCK TEST PAPER-2	341-354

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** sections-
 - 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



¹Farce: a comic, dramatic work

²Quarrelsome: (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.

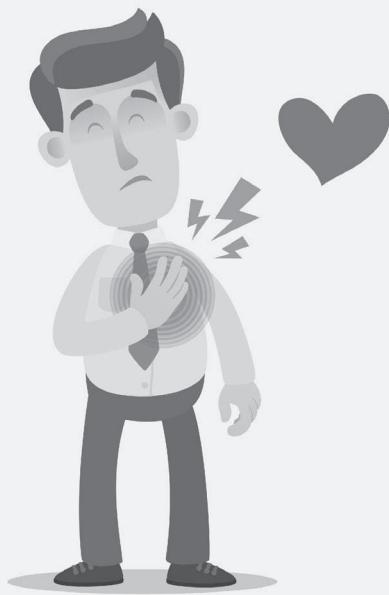
In between the argument, Lomov's left foot went numb, and he started feeling sick and went out of the door. Talking ill about him, Chubukov then mentions to Natalya that Lomov had come up with a proposal for her. Natalya was surprised and wanted to bring him back immediately. Chubukov called Lomov back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

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?

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.

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

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

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

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.

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- (c) Over their marriage.
- (d) Over Lomov’s health.

5. How much are the meadows worth approximately?

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.

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.



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

I. 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

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.

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, Squeez, 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.

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** sections-
 - 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:
The author's main argument in the paragraph is to _____. 1

(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.

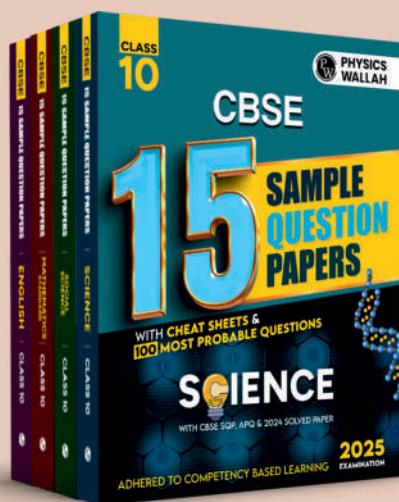
Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

(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



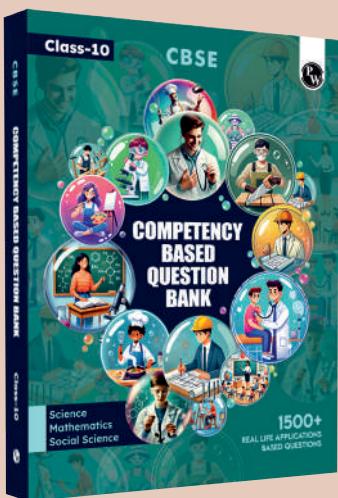
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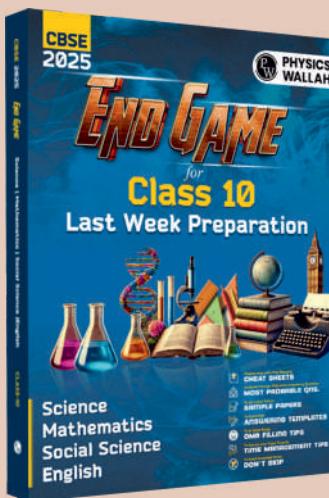
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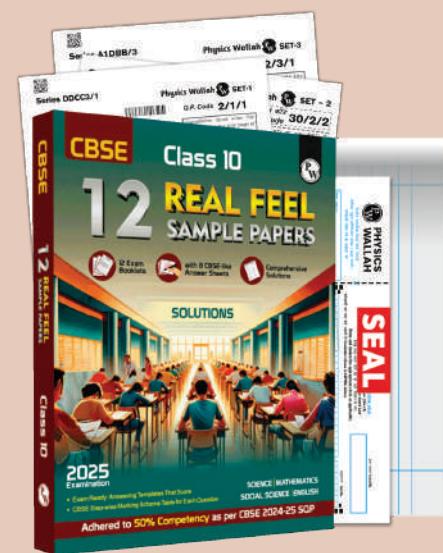
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