

CLASS
12



PHYSICS
WALLAH

CBSE

12

**SAMPLE
QUESTION
PAPERS**

NEW PATTERN

As per Latest CBSE SQP (Dated 30th July, 2025)

ENGLISH CORE

With CBSE SQP & 2025 Solved Paper

2026
EXAMINATION

Additional Features

- 29 Cheat Sheets (Mindmap)
- 3 SQPs with Handwritten Solutions



How to Rock Your Board Exams?



Admit Card: Double-check your admit card before heading to the exam center.



Stationery: Bring pens, pencils, erasers, sharpeners, ruler, and a geometry box. Ensure working pens with sufficient ink and carry spares.



Water bottle and wrist watch: Bring a transparent water bottle for hydration and a wrist watch to monitor time; avoid digital watches which may not be permitted.



Arrive Early at the Examination Center: Arrive before your admit card's reporting time for smooth security checks and room location.



Read the Instructions carefully: Read the instructions of the paper carefully to know the format, marking and special guidelines. Ask the invigilator for any doubts about instructions.



Manage your Time: Assign time for each section/question based on allotted marks and adhere to it for effective time management.



Don't Panic: If you find the paper difficult, remember that everyone else is likely feeling the same way. Stay focused, do your best, and don't let anxiety take over.



Start with your Strengths: Start with your strongest section/question to boost confidence for tougher parts.



Answer clearly and neatly: Write neatly, use headings, subheadings, and bullets for clarity and fetching more marks. Start with margins on both sides. This sets a structured format for your answers.



Don't spend too much time on one question: If a question is challenging or time-consuming, move on and revisit it later if possible. Avoid getting stuck on a single question.



Use of HB pencil: HB pencils produce a relatively dark and easily readable mark. Try to use HB pencils while making diagrams in the exam.



Attempt all questions: Even if unsure, attempt all questions; there is no negative marking in CBSE exams.

SELF ASSESSMENT SHEET

Self-assessment plays a crucial role in exam preparation and offers several advantages:

- **Enhanced Self-awareness:** Self-assessment sheets help students gain a deeper understanding of their strengths and weaknesses across various subjects. Specific feedback on their performance provides valuable insights into areas of excellence and those that require improvement.
- **Focused Study:** These sheets provide clear guidance to students on where to direct their efforts. Identifying which questions to review, reattempt, or practice allows for more efficient and purposeful study sessions.
- **Targeted Improvement:** By categorizing questions into different categories (e.g., Easy, Revise, Reattempt), students can concentrate on areas that require the most attention. This targeted approach can result in significant improvements in their comprehension and performance.
- **Motivation:** Self-assessment sheets serve as a source of motivation for students. Observing their progress and understanding the steps needed for improvement can boost their motivation to work harder and achieve better results.
- **Reduced Exam Anxiety:** Having a clear understanding of their preparation progress helps reduce exam-related anxiety. Students feel more confident when they know what aspects to focus on, leading to a calmer and more effective exam experience.
- **Time Management:** Self-assessment sheets aid students in managing their study time more effectively. They can allocate more time to areas requiring extensive revision or reattempt while spending less time on topics they have already mastered.

Self evaluation Instruction: After completing the test, evaluate it using the provided explanations. Use only a pencil to mark the evaluations (allowing for revisions and reattempts). Record the marks obtained in the Marks section and provide remarks in the Remarks column.

Remarks abbreviations:

- **Easy (E):** Use for questions that you should find straightforward, indicating a good understanding and correct answers.
- **Revise (R):** Assign to questions where your response contains minor errors or gaps in understanding, suggesting the need for topic review.
- **Reattempt (RA):** Use for questions with incorrect responses, significant misconceptions, or a lack of understanding. Students receiving this remark should revisit the topic thoroughly, seek additional help if necessary, and attempt similar questions to enhance their grasp of the concept.

Comparative Analysis

ENGLISH-CORE			
Topics	2024 Paper	2025 Paper	Sample Question Paper 2025-26
Literary Passage	12	12	12
Case-based Passage	10	10	10
Notice	4	4	4
Advertisement/Poster Making	-	-	-
Debate/Speech Writing	-	-	-
Formal/Informal Invitation and Reply	4	4	4
Letter to the Editor/Application with bio-data	5	5	5
Article/Report Writing	5	5	5
The Last Lesson	2, 5*	2, 6	2
Lost Spring	6	2, 5*	2
Deep Water	2	5*	2
The Rattrap	-	-	6
Indigo	5*	-	5*
Poets and Pancakes	6	6	5*
The Interview	-	-	2
Going Places	2	2	6, 5*
My Mother at Sixty-Six	6	-	6
Keeping Quiet	2, 5*	2, 6, 5*	2
A Thing of Beauty	2	2, 5*	2
A Roadside Stand	6, 5*	2, 6	5*
Aunt Jennifer's Tigers	2	-	6
The Third Level	-	2	4
The Tiger King	4, 2	2	5
Journey to the End of the Earth	4	2, 5	2
The Enemy	2, 5	5	5
Should Wizard Hit Mommy (Rationalized)	-	-	-
On the Face of It	5	4	4, 2
Evans Tries an O-Level (Rationalized)	-	-	-
Memories of Childhood			
- The Cutting of My Long Hair	2	4	2
- We Too are Human Beings			

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

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CHAPTER

1 The Last Lesson

—Alphonse Daudet

- The story is set in Alsace, a territory that Prussia has acquired where the German language is being suppressed in favor of French.
- The protagonist, Franz, is late for school and fears being scolded by his teacher, Monsieur Hamel.
- He notices that the village is unusually quiet, and the bulletin board at the town hall has a new proclamation.
- Upon reaching school, Franz finds it filled with students of all ages and even some villagers.
- Monsieur Hamel announces that it is the last French lesson they'll have, as an order has come to teach only German in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine.
- The news shocks Franz and the villagers present.
- M. Hamel mentions how people of Alsace have always put off learning.
- He speaks passionately about the importance of the French language and how it's the most beautiful language in the world.
- He emphasizes that language is the key to a community's identity and freedom.
- Franz regrets not valuing his lessons and the French language more when he had the chance.
- M. Hamel delivers his last lesson with emotion, even writing "Vive La France!" on the blackboard.
- As the church clock strikes twelve, the lesson ends, marking the end of an era in Alsace.
- M. Hamel, who has taught in that school for forty years, leaves the schoolroom for the last time.
- The story underscores the impact of political decisions on common people and the significance of one's language and cultural identity.

CHAPTER

2 The Lost Spring (Stories of Stolen Childhood)

—Anees jung

"Sometimes I find a Rupee in the garbage"

- Saheb is introduced as a barefoot boy roaming the streets of Seemapuri.
- Seemapuri, a place on the periphery of Delhi, houses ragpickers who migrated from Dhaka.
- The ragpickers live in makeshift huts with no sewage, drainage, or running water.
- For these ragpickers, garbage is gold; it's their daily bread, even if it means a meal that is earned out of rotting garbage.
- Saheb's family, like others, migrated to Seemapuri in hopes of a better livelihood.
- The writer, Anees Jung, gives money to Saheb, pondering on the irony of his name which means "lord" in Persian.
- Later, Saheb is found working at a tea stall, giving up his scavenging, losing his carefree look.
- Earning an income takes away the carefree look from Saheb's face but gives him the joy of owning real tennis shoes.
- The story captures the contrast between the name, which suggests wealth and the reality of poverty.
- Saheb's loss of freedom and innocence is the price he pays for his new job.
- The narrative provides a commentary on the harsh realities of urban poverty.
- Despite challenges, there is a sense of contentment and hope in Saheb's life.



LITERATURE (FLAMINGO-POETRY)

CHAPTER

1 My Mother at Sixty Six

—Kamala Das

- The poet, Kamala Das, is driving from her parents' home to Cochin airport.
- She looks at her mother who is seated beside her and is struck by how old and frail she has become.
- The mother's face looks pale, colorless, and soft, reminding the poet of the late winter's moon.
- The aging appearance of her mother brings about feelings of fear and pain in the poet.
- The thought of inevitable death and the possible loss of her mother haunts her.
- To divert her mind from these sad thoughts, the poet looks outside at the young trees sprinting and merry children spilling out of their homes.
- When she arrives at the airport, she hides her sadness and puts on a cheerful face.
- The poet bids her mother goodbye, assuring her they will meet soon.
- The poet's smile is an attempt to hide her fears and her realization of the transience of life.

CHAPTER

2 Keeping Quiet

—Pablo Neruda

- The poem emphasizes the importance of silence and introspection.
- The poet, Pablo Neruda, advocates for a momentary halt in all activities.
- He believes that taking a brief pause in life would help in self-introspection.
- This pause isn't about total inactivity but about creating a moment of understanding.
- The silence will make people introspect about their mistakes and the harm they've caused.
- The poet talks about the Earth's green essence and how it remains unaffected by wars.
- He also touches upon the idea that often people are separated by boundaries and misunderstandings.
- The poet feels that silence can help people understand each other better.
- He believes that such a pause will foster a sense of mutual respect and unity among humans.
- In the end, the poet hopes that people will rise from this introspection with a clear understanding, bettered by the silence.

CHAPTER

3 A Thing of Beauty

—John Keats

- A beautiful thing is a constant source of joy and lasts forever.
- Its loveliness increases with time and never fades away.
- It provides a shelter and comfort in difficult times, like shade on a hot day.
- Such beautiful things include the sun, the moon, old and young trees, and daffodils.
- The beauty of these objects provides us with tranquil feelings and sleep filled with sweet dreams.
- They also bring robust health and peaceful breathing.
- The Earth is filled with numerous beautiful objects which act as an endless fountain pouring goodness onto us.
- However, there are moments of despair and negativity when dark thoughts cloud our minds.
- But the existence of beautiful things helps us to find solace and keeps our spirits alive.
- Thus, a thing of beauty, with its everlasting impact, removes the pall of our dark spirits and is a blessing for us.

Roll No.

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Q.P. Code **01**

Candidates must write the Q.P. Code on the title page of the answer book.

SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER-I

ENGLISH (CORE)

Time allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 80

NOTE:

- *Q.P. Code given on the right hand side of the question paper should be written on the title page of the answer-book by the candidate.*
- *Please check that this question paper contains 13 questions.*
- *Please write down the serial number of the question in the answer-book before attempting it.*
- *15 minute time has been allotted to read this question paper. Students will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer-book during this period.*

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Read the following instructions carefully and strictly follow them:

- (i) This question paper has 13 questions. All questions are **compulsory**.*
- (ii) This question paper contains **three** sections - Section A : **Reading Skills**, Section B : **Creative Writing Skills** and Section C : **Literature**.*
- (iii) Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.*
- (iv) Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.*
- (v) Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.*

SECTION - A

READING SKILLS

(22 marks)

1. Read the following text.

(12 m)

1. If you enjoy watching crime shows on TV, you know that fingerprints play a large role in identifying people. But you might be surprised to find out that using fingerprints for identification is not a new science. In fact, it is very old - dating back at least as far as 1885-1913 B.C.E. In Babylon, when people agreed to a business contract, they pressed their fingerprints into the clay in which the contract was written. Thumbprints have also been found on clay seals from ancient China.
2. In 14th century Persia, which is now Iran, a government doctor recognized that all fingerprints are different. In 1684, a British doctor, Nehemiah Grew, spoke about the ridged surfaces of the fingers. In 1686, a professor of anatomy (the study of the structure of the human body) named Marcello Malpighi, wrote about the ridges and loops in fingerprints. Malpighi's work was considered so important that a layer of skin found on the fingertips was named after him. This layer of skin is called the Malpighian layer. Although scientists had studied fingerprints, the value of fingerprinting in the identification of individuals did not become clear until later.
3. Sir William James Herschel is generally thought to be the first European to realize that fingerprints were unique to each person. In his work as chief magistrate in the Hoogly district in Jungipoor, India, Herschel asked people to put their handprints on contracts. Herschel believed that personal contact with the contracts made people more likely to honor their commitments, or to keep their promises. As he looked at more and more handprints, he began to see that all the handprints were different. He started to believe that fingerprints were unique, which means they are all different from each other, and permanent, which means that they do not ever change. To prove that they never change, Herschel kept track of his own fingerprints over his entire lifetime.
4. Dr. Henry Faulds, a British surgeon at a Japanese hospital, began studying the furrows(also called ridges) on fingertips in the 1870s. He published an article in a scientific journal about the use of fingerprints as a tool in identification. He also devised, or invented, a system of classifying fingerprints. He wrote Charles Darwin about his findings, but Darwin was getting too old to work on the findings. So, he promised to pass the information to his cousin, Sir Francis Galton. Using Henry Faulds' findings, Galton published a major book on classifying fingerprints based on arches, loops, and whirls. His work with Sir Edward R. Henry on fingerprint classification was the basis of a classification system which is still used by law enforcement agencies in English-speaking countries.
5. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) now uses a variation of the Galton- Henry system. Although the use of fingerprinting in identification originated in Britain, it has been developed in the United States. In 1924, two large fingerprint collections were combined to form the foundation of the Identification Division of the FBI. Within the Identification Division, the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems (IAFIS) can search and find fingerprints anywhere in the United States within thirty minutes. The IAFIS can compare results with automated fingerprint systems in countries around the world. The IAFIS has the fingerprints of more than 250 million people on file.
6. About one in six Americans has fingerprints on file with the FBI. But not all the fingerprints are related to criminal investigations. People need to have their fingerprints taken for many other reasons. People have their fingerprints taken for employment, licenses, and adoption. For example, when people want to work for the government in classified, secret jobs, their fingerprints are checked to be sure they do not have a criminal background. When prospective parents adopt a child, their fingerprints are matched against those of all criminals for the safety of the child.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

(i) Which statement accurately describes the historical use of fingerprints? 1

(a) Only used in Persia for identification. (b) Modern science introduced by crime shows.

(c) Used in ancient Babylon for business contracts. (d) Commonly used in everyday transactions in ancient China.

(ii) In approximately 40 words, describe the key contribution of Dr. Henry Faulds to the study of fingerprints. 2

(iii) Based on Sir William James Herschel's observation, one can deduce that fingerprints are _____. 1

(iv) What is the implied meaning of the statement, "To prove that they never change, Herschel kept track of his own fingerprints over his entire lifetime"? 1

(a) Herschel was obsessive about his findings. (b) Herschel wanted empirical evidence.

(c) Fingerprints change as your age. (d) Herschel had doubts about his theory.

(v) Which of the following represents the clear boundary between professional and personal life, as mentioned in paragraph (3)? 1
 (a) Having a separate workspace at home. (b) Logging off from the work server after office hours.
 (c) Attending team-building activities. (d) Access to office infrastructure.

(vi) How might the preference of a better work-life balance among remote workers influence corporate policies and incentives? 2
 Answer in about 40 words.

(vii) Complete the sentence appropriately: 1
 The similar emphasis on networking opportunities by both WFH enthusiasts and office-goers can be attributed to _____.

(viii) State TRUE or FALSE. 1
 The title, "Digital Revolution: The Rising WFH Culture Among Modern Professionals", would be suitable for the passage.

SECTION - B

CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

(18 marks)

Note: All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purposes.

3. Attempt ANY ONE of two in about 50 words. (4)

(A) Sunrise Senior Secondary School has recently set up Aqua Bliss, a specially designed aquatic habitat for native fish and aquatic plants, next to the science block. As Arjun Kumar, President of the Nature Society, draft a notice for the school notice board, informing students of class XII, about a demonstration session at Aqua Bliss, right after the lunch break, on Wednesday, 29th May. Also, invite volunteers who are interested in maintaining and looking after Aqua Bliss.

OR

(B) You are the Coordinator of the Safety Committee, Aman Vihar, Block F-7 Association. Draft a notice for the Association's notice board, informing residents about the appointment of a new Fire Safety Officer and provide necessary details. Also, announce the establishment of the long-awaited fire hydrant system at the Western entrance of the Association.

4. Attempt ANY ONE of two in about 50 words. (4)

(A) You are the Chairperson, Health & Wellness Club, at A.B. International School. Your school is organizing a 3-day meditation workshop during the summer break, for teachers and staff of the school. Draft an invitation, inviting the school teachers and staff for this meditation workshop. Provide information about the workshop instructors and include other essential details.

OR

(B) Shri. Raghavendra Rao, your grandfather, has received an invitation from his former colleague, residing in another locality of the same city. The invite is for a retirement party, celebrating his successful career spanning four decades. Your grandfather is keen on attending but would require a family member to assist him due to his recent eye surgery. Frame an appropriate reply, accepting the invitation, on behalf of your grandfather.

5. Attempt ANY ONE of two in about 120 - 150 words. (5)

(A) You are Rashmi Varma, a fresh graduate in Computer Science, from MIT, Pune. You came across the below advertisement in a leading daily:

Vertex Software Solutions SOFTWARE ENGINEERS wanted Opportunity for enthusiastic coders
WHO DO WE NEED? Freshers with a flair for coding. Those with a knack for problem-solving.
REQUIRED: Degree in Computer Science or related field.
SKILLS: Proficient in Java, C++, and Python. Strong analytical abilities.
Please send your resumes to: <i>Vertex Recruitment, Office 408-410, Tech Park, Pune. (Latest by 5th July, 2024)</i>

You wish to apply for the position advertised. Write a letter to Vertex Software Solutions, along with your bio-data, expressing your interest in the advertised post.

SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER-I

(Explanations)

- (i) (c) Used in ancient Babylon for business contracts.
 - (ii) Dr. Henry Faulds began studying the ridges on fingertips in the 1870s, published an article about fingerprints as an identification tool, and devised a system of classifying fingerprints.
 - (iii) unique and permanent
 - (iv) (b) Herschel wanted empirical evidence.
 - (v) The Galton-Henry system is significant because it was a foundational method for classifying fingerprints. This system, developed based on Faulds' and Galton's findings, remains the basis for fingerprint classification in English-speaking law enforcement agencies.
 - (vi) Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems
 - (vii) IAFIS can search and find fingerprints across the U.S. within thirty minutes. It can compare results with automated fingerprint systems globally and has fingerprints of over 250 million people on file.
 - (viii) (b) For employment, licenses, and adoption
 - (ix) (b) To ensure they don't have a criminal background for the child's safety
 - (x) The statement "To prove that they never change, Herschel kept track of his own fingerprints over his entire lifetime" clearly supports the idea that Herschel believed fingerprints remain the same over time.
- (i) Companies could benefit from reduced infrastructure costs and the ability to tap into a wider talent pool not restricted by geographical boundaries.
 - (ii) (c) Effective face-to-face interactions
 - (iii) Modern professionals value both flexibility and effective communication, aiming to achieve work efficiency either through the comfort of their home or direct interactions in office settings.
 - (iv) (a) Rohan
 - (v) (a) Having a separate workspace at home
 - (vi) Companies might offer flexible work hours, mental health support, or breaks during the day to cater to employees seeking a balanced life, ensuring their well-being and productivity.
 - (vii) the universal understanding of its significance in career growth and professional development.
 - (viii) TRUE

3. (A)

SUNRISE SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL NOTICE

April 17, 2024

DEMONSTRATION SESSION AT AQUA BLISS

This is to inform all students of Class XII that a special demonstration session at Aqua Bliss, our newly designed aquatic habitat, will be held on **Wednesday, 29th May**, right after the lunch break.

Students interested in volunteering to help maintain and take care of Aqua Bliss are encouraged to join.

Arjun Kumar

President, Nature Society



Mistakes 101 : What not to do!

- Students might use an informal or inappropriate tone in the notice, which is not suitable for a formal school notice.
- Students might not clearly mention the requirements and deadline for applying as volunteers.

OR

(B)

AMAN VIHAR, BLOCK F-7 ASSOCIATION NOTICE

July 05, 2024

INSTALLATION OF FIRE HYDRANT SYSTEM

This is to inform all residents that Mr. Rakesh Mehta has been appointed as our new Fire Safety Officer. He will oversee all fire safety measures in our community.

Contact Details:

Name: Mr. Rajat Verma

Phone: 2276543200

Email: rajatvdv@firesafety.org

We are also pleased to announce that a fire hydrant system has been installed at the Western entrance of the Association.

Sakshi Mehta

Coordinator, Safety Committee

** Format - 1 Mark, Content - 2 Marks, Accuracy of spelling and grammar - 1 Mark*



Nailing the Right Answer

In Notices, use a clear and concise language, avoiding any informal or colloquial terms.

4. (A)

A.B. International School Health & Wellness Club

Cordinally invites

All teachers and staff members
To a **3-day Meditation Workshop**

Organized by expert instructors from
Tranquil Minds Meditation Center

Dates: 10th - 12th July 2024

Time: 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Venue: A. B. International School Auditorium

Address: 123 Learning Lane, Knowledge City, ABC 45678

Join us for a transformative experience to enhance mental clarity, reduce stress, and improve overall well-being.

RSVP: healthwellness@abintschool.edu

Contact: 123-456-7890

OR

(B)

123, Heritage Lane
Green Park

New Delhi - 110016

11th July, 2024

Dear Mr. Sunil,

Thank you for the kind invitation to your retirement party. My grandfather, Shri. Raghavendra Rao, is eager to attend and celebrate your remarkable career. However, due to his recent eye surgery, he will need a family member's assistance. We will be there and look forward to the event.

Warm regards,

Ananya Rao

Contact: 9876543210

*** Format - 1 Mark, Content - 2 Marks, Accuracy of spelling and grammar - 1 Mark**

5. (A) Flat No. 102,
Green Heights, Kalyani Nagar
Pune - 411006

10th July, 2024

The Hiring Manager
Vertex Software Solutions
Office 408-410, Tech Park, Pune

Subject: Application for the Post of Software Engineer

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my interest in the Software Engineer position advertised on 5th June 2024. I recently graduated with a degree in Computer Science from MIT, Pune, and I am proficient in Java, C++, and Python. My academic projects and internships have honed my coding skills and analytical abilities, making me confident in my ability to contribute to your team.

I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to work at Vertex Software Solutions and believe that my passion for coding and problem-solving aligns well with your requirements.

I have attached my bio-data for your consideration. I look forward to the possibility of discussing how I can contribute to your team.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely

Rashmi Varma

[Enclosed: Bio-data]

BIO-DATA

Name: Rashmi Varma

Father's Name: Mr. Ramesh Varma

Date of Birth: October 08, 1998

Address: Flat No.- 102, Green Heights, Kalyani Nagar, Pune - 411006

Contact No.: 98XXXXXX09

Email Id: rashmi.varma@email.com

Nationality: Indian

Qualifications:

Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science, MIT, Pune University, Pune (2021-24)

Work Experience:

Software Developer Intern, AlphaTech, Pune

Duration: June 2023 - August 2023

Role: Assisted the main development team in building features and debugging

Achievements:

- Secured 1st place in MIT Pune's annual coding challenge, 2024
- Received Best Intern Award at AlphaTech

CBSE SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER

(Issued by CBSE on 30th July, 2025)

Class-XII Session: 2025-2026

ENGLISH (CORE): 30 I

Time allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 80

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Read the following instructions very carefully and follow them:

- (i) *This question paper has 13 questions. All questions are compulsory.*
- (ii) *This question paper contains three sections :*
Section A : Reading Skills
Section B : Creative Writing Skills
Section C: Literature.
- (iii) *Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.*
- (iv) *Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.*
- (v) *Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.*

SECTION A

READING SKILLS

(22 marks)

1. Read the following passages.

12

Ours was the marsh country, down by the river, within twenty miles of the sea. My first most vivid and broad impression of the identity of things seems to me to have been gained on a memorable raw afternoon towards evening. The low leaden line beyond was the river; and that the distant savage lair from which the wind was rushing was the sea; and that the small bundle of shivers growing afraid of it all and beginning to cry, was Pip.

“Hold your noise!” cried a terrible voice, as a man started up from among the graves at the side of the bushes. “Keep still, or I’ll make you pay!”

A fearful man, all in coarse grey, with a great iron on his leg. A man with no hat, and with broken shoes, and with an old rag tied round his head. A man who had been soaked in water, and smothered in mud, limped, and shivered, and glared, and growled; and whose teeth chattered in his head as he seized me.

“Tell us your name!” said the man. “Quick! Give it mouth!”

“Pip. Pip, sir.”

“Show us where you live,” said the man. “Point out the place!”

The man, after looking at me for a moment, emptied my pockets. There was nothing in them but a piece of bread which he ate ravenously.

“Now lookee here!” said the man. “Where’s your mother?”

“There, sir!” said I.

He started, made a short run, and stopped and looked over his shoulder.

“Oh!” said he, coming back. Who’s that?” he asked, pointing.

“My sister, sir,—Mrs. Joe Gargery,—wife of Joe Gargery, the blacksmith, sir.”

“Blacksmith, eh?” said he. And looked down at his leg.

After darkly looking at his leg, he came close to me, took me by both arms, and tilted me back as far as he could hold me; so that his eyes looked most powerfully down into mine, and mine looked most helplessly up into his.

“Now lookee here,” he said, “You know what a file and wittles is?”

“Yes, sir.”

After each question he tilted me over a little more, so as to give me a greater sense of helplessness and danger.

“You get me a file.” He tilted me again. “And wittles.” He tilted me again. “You bring ‘em both to me.” I was dreadfully frightened, and so giddy that I clung to him with both hands, and said, “If you would kindly please to let me keep upright, sir, perhaps I shouldn’t be sick, and perhaps I could attend more.”

He did. Then, he held me by the arms, in an upright position, and went on with his terms.

Source: Great Expectations by Charles Dickens/448 words

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

(I) Which textual evidence tells us that Pip was trembling? 1

Ans. ‘...the small bundle of shivers growing afraid of it all...’

(II) Complete the following with a suitable reason. 1

The writer refers to the sea as a ‘savage lair’ in order to tell the reader that _____.

Ans. ...that the sea is a wild, untamed, and menacing force / contribute to the ominous atmosphere of the scene / amplifying the sense of danger that Pip feels

(III) The writer emphasises Pip’s vulnerability in all of the following ways EXCEPT — 1

- A. through the description of the harsh landscape
- B. via the behaviour of the frightening man
- C. through Pip’s helplessness and fear
- D. via Pip’s knowledge of the surrounding area

Ans. D. Pip’s knowledge of the surrounding area

[A) speaks of a scene in a place that feels cold, oppressive, and dangerous, which heightens Pip’s sense of fear and helplessness. B) creates a feeling of menace due to the man’s appearance, reinforcing Pip’s fear and powerlessness in the situation. C) shows his terror and helplessness. D) is the Key because it refers to qualities that would imply Pip is capable and confident, which contradicts the idea of vulnerability.]

(IV) What type of statement is made in the phrase “Keep still, or I’ll make you pay!”? 1

- A. caution
- B. threat
- C. prediction
- D. announcement

Ans. B. threat

[caution would be advice; prediction would involve stating what will happen in the future and an announcement would be a formal declaration. The Key is B) ‘threat’ as it directly communicates a potential consequence of harm or punishment.]

(V) Based on his initial appearance, how can we say that the ‘fearful man’ was in a state of discomfort? (Any one reason) 1

Ans. (Any one)

- ◆ Being soaked in water and smothered in mud, which are physical conditions that typically cause discomfort)
- ◆ Limping, which indicates possible injury or physical strain, contributing to discomfort.
- ◆ Shivering and teeth chattering, which suggests cold or nervousness, both of which are associated with discomfort.

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