



CLASS 10 · CBSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (184)

English Solved Board Papers

Chapter-wise and year-wise CBSE board questions with complete answers

2024-2026

- ✓ Part A: every question sorted by chapter and skill, grouped by marks, with full answers
- ✓ Part B: complete board papers, each followed by its answers
- ✓ Board weightage table and most-asked topics for every chapter
- ✓ Questions from 16 board sets (2024-2026), including all grammar and writing tasks
- ✓ Model letters and analytical paragraphs; extracts and long answers solved

WHAT YOU GET

CBSE Class 10 English papers 2024–2026. Every question answered. Sorted chapter-wise.

16

board papers

406

solved questions

3

years · 2024–26

32

chapters

192

MCQs solved

X Questions scattered across years



✓ All in one place, chapter-wise

X Don't know what to study first



✓ Weightage + most-asked topics

X No model answers for writing



✓ Every writing task fully drafted

X Short answers lose marks



✓ Answers written the board way

PART A**Chapter-wise****A**

- ✓ Weightage table
- ✓ Most-asked topics
- ✓ Every question + solution

PART B**Full papers****B**

- ✓ Exactly as set by CBSE
- ✓ Solutions after each paper
- ✓ Timed 3-hour practice

2026 · 2/2/1

2025 · 2/1/1

2024 · 2/4/1


Complete Notes · Solved PYQs

CLASS 6–12 · ALL SUBJECTS

100%
 QUESTIONS
 SOLVED
Made for **board toppers**

How to use this book

Part A puts every board question on a chapter or a writing task together. Finish a chapter in your notes, then answer its Part A questions without looking at the answers. Check, mark the ones you got wrong, and repeat them a week later.

Each question shows where it was asked, for example **CBSE 2026 · 2/2/1 · Q8(iii)**. Use the weightage table and the most-asked topics chart at the start of each chapter to decide what to revise first.

Part B gives full papers. In the last month before the exam, sit with a clock and write one paper in 3 hours, then check it with the answers that follow the paper.

Writing answers follow the board format (format, content, accuracy and fluency) and stay within the word limit. Literature answers name the character or poetic device, then support each point with an incident or line from the text.

Contents

Part A · Chapter-wise questions with solutions

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. A Letter to God 8 Qs | 17. The Sermon at Benares 1 Qs |
| 2. Dust of Snow 4 Qs | 18. For Anne Gregory 4 Qs |
| 3. Fire and Ice 2 Qs | 19. The Proposal 4 Qs |
| 4. Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom 9 Qs | 20. A Triumph of Surgery 8 Qs |
| 5. A Tiger in the Zoo 6 Qs | 21. The Thief's Story 7 Qs |
| 6. Two Stories about Flying 7 Qs | 22. The Midnight Visitor 7 Qs |
| 7. How to Tell Wild Animals 3 Qs | 23. A Question of Trust 4 Qs |
| 8. The Ball Poem 7 Qs | 24. Footprints without Feet 4 Qs |
| 9. From the Diary of Anne Frank 2 Qs | 25. The Making of a Scientist 4 Qs |
| 10. Amanda! 6 Qs | 26. The Necklace 6 Qs |
| 11. Glimpses of India 8 Qs | 27. Bholi 7 Qs |
| 12. The Trees 4 Qs | 28. The Book That Saved the Earth 7 Qs |
| 13. Mijbil the Otter 5 Qs | 29. Grammar 192 Qs |
| 14. Fog 1 Qs | 30. Formal Letter Writing 32 Qs |
| 15. Madam Rides the Bus 5 Qs | 31. Analytical Paragraph Writing 32 Qs |
| 16. The Tale of Custard the Dragon 4 Qs | 32. Reading Comprehension 6 Qs |

Part B · Full board papers, each followed by its solutions

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. CBSE 2026 · 2/2/1 solutions | 2. CBSE 2025 · 2/1/1 solutions |
| | 3. CBSE 2024 · 2/4/1 solutions |

406 questions in all. Questions are taken from 16 sets of the CBSE Class 10 English Language and Literature (184) board papers, 2024 to 2026; the answers are our own, written to the board's marking pattern. Three papers are given in full in Part B. Literature questions from sets whose papers were released only as scanned images are not included.

CHAPTER 1

*A Letter to God***Board weightage 2024–2026**

Year	2024	2025	2026
Questions	1	3	4
Marks	6	17	23

Most asked topics

Long answer		6
Extract-based		2

8 questions from 8 papers. Repeated questions are shown once with every year they were asked.

5 marks: extract-based / writing

CBSE 2026 · 2/3/1 · Q6(A)

5 marks

Read the extract and answer the questions. The postmaster — a fat, amiable fellow — also broke out laughing, but almost immediately he turned serious and, tapping the letter to his desk, commented, "What faith! I wish I had the faith of the man who wrote this letter. Starting up a correspondence with God!" So, in order not to shake the writer's faith in God, the postmaster came up with an idea: answer the letter. (*A Letter to God*) (i) Justify the statement: "What faith! I wish I had the faith of the man who wrote this letter."

(ii) The postmaster turned serious because he realised the writer had _____ (immense / limited) faith in God.

(iii) Examine the portrayal of the postmaster in the extract. (2 marks)

(iv) Why did the postmaster at first laugh on seeing the letter? (A) It was a blank sheet. (B) He lacked faith in God. (C) He had received such letters earlier. (D) He had never known such an address.

Solution

(i) Only a man with complete, childlike faith would write a letter to God and post it, expecting a reply; the postmaster admires and envies such belief.

(ii) **immense**.

(iii) He is fat and **amiable** (good-natured). Though he first laughs, he quickly becomes serious and respectful. He is **kind and generous**: to protect Lencho's faith, he decides to answer the letter, collects money from his staff and gives part of his own salary.

(iv) **(D)** He had never known such an address ("To God").

CBSE 2025 · 2/1/1 · Q6(A)

5 marks

Read the extract and answer the questions. Not a leaf remained on the trees. The corn was totally destroyed. The flowers were gone from the plants. Lencho's soul was filled with sadness. When the storm had passed, he stood in the middle of the field and said to his sons, "A plague of locusts would have left more than this. The hail has left nothing. This year we will have no corn." That night was a sorrowful one. "All our work, for nothing." "There's no one who can help us." "We'll all go hungry this year." (*A Letter to God*)

(i) Why were there no leaves left on the trees? (A) The locusts ate them up. (B) An earthquake had occurred. (C) There was a hailstorm. (D) The animals grazed on them.

(ii) Lencho felt _____ (jubilant / devastated) when he saw his destroyed corn fields.

(iii) When Lencho says, "All our work, for nothing," what does he refer to? (about 40 words)

(iv) Why would Lencho have preferred a plague of locusts to a hailstorm?

Solution

(i) **(C)** There was a hailstorm.

(ii) **devastated**.

(iii) He means that all the hard work the family had put into ploughing, sowing and tending the cornfield for a whole season had been wasted in a single storm. With the crop destroyed they would earn nothing and would go hungry all year.

(iv) Locusts would at least have **left something** of the crop; the hail left nothing at all.

6 marks: long answer

CBSE 2026 · 2/2/1 · Q10(A)

6 marks

How do Lencho ("*A Letter to God*") and Kisa Gotami ("*The Sermon at Benares*") respond to suffering and loss? How did they overcome their losses? (100–120 words)

Solution

Both suffer a heavy loss but respond differently. **Lencho** loses his entire corn crop to a hailstorm. Though sad, he does not lose hope; with complete faith in God he writes a letter asking for a hundred pesos. The postmaster and staff send him seventy pesos, and he overcomes his loss through this help, though he blames the post-office employees for the missing money. **Kisa Gotami** loses her only son and, mad with grief, carries his body from house to house seeking medicine. The Buddha asks her to bring mustard seed from a house where no one has died. She finds none and realises that death is common to all. She overcomes her grief through **understanding and acceptance**. Lencho is helped from outside; Kisa finds peace within.

CBSE 2026 · 2/4/1 · Q10(A)

6 marks

Compare "*A Letter to God*" and "*The Black Aeroplane*". Examine how both stories show that help can come in unexpected forms. (100–120 words)

Solution

In both stories someone in crisis receives help from an unexpected source. **Lencho** loses his crop to hail and writes to God for a hundred pesos. The help actually comes from the **postmaster and his staff**, who collect seventy pesos so as not to shake his faith; Lencho never knows who helped

him and even blames them. In "**The Black Aeroplane**", the pilot is lost in a storm with failed instruments and little fuel. A **mysterious black aeroplane** appears and guides him to a runway. Later the control-room woman says no other aeroplane was flying, so the helper remains unexplained, perhaps divine. In both stories help arrives from where it is least expected, rewarding faith and trust, and in both the helper remains unknown or unthanked.

CBSE 2026 · 2/5/1 · Q10(A)

6 marks

How does Lencho's faith in God in "A Letter to God" contrast with the scepticism of Kisa Gotami in "The Sermon at Benares"? Support your answer with details. (100–120 words)

Solution

Lencho has unquestioning faith. When hail destroys his crop, he writes directly to God for a hundred pesos, sure that God will help. When he gets seventy, his faith remains intact; he suspects the post-office employees of stealing the rest. **Kisa Gotami**, by contrast, is driven by grief and doubt. Unwilling to accept her son's death, she goes from house to house seeking medicine; people think she has lost her senses. She approaches the Buddha hoping for a cure, and his task, mustard seed from a house where none has died, slowly removes her denial and leads her to accept that all who are born must die. Lencho's faith never changes and expects a miracle; Kisa's searching doubt ends in wisdom and inner peace.

CBSE 2025 · 2/2/1 · Q10(A)

6 marks

Analyse and evaluate the role of faith in "A Letter to God" and "The Sermon at Benares". (100–120 words)

Solution

Faith guides the central characters of both texts, but in different ways. **Lencho** has unshakeable, simple faith in God. When hail destroys his crop, he writes to God for a hundred pesos, and when the postmaster sends him seventy, he does not doubt God at all; instead he blames the post-office employees as "a bunch of crooks". His faith is complete but innocent and unquestioning. **Kisa Gotami** goes to the Buddha with faith that he can revive her dead son. The Buddha does not perform a miracle; he sends her to find mustard seed from a house where no one has died. Her search leads her to understand that death is common to all. Lencho's faith brings material help; Kisa's faith leads to wisdom and acceptance. Faith comforts both, but only Kisa's leads to enlightenment.

CBSE 2025 · 2/3/1 · Q10(A)

6 marks

Comment on the reactions and feelings of Lencho and Nelson Mandela when they faced challenges in their lives. (A Letter to God and Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom) (100–120 words)

Solution

Both men face great hardship with firm belief and courage. When a hailstorm destroys **Lencho's** crop, he is sad but does not despair. His faith in God is so complete that he writes to God for a hundred pesos. When he receives only seventy, he is angry, not with God, but with the post-office employees, whom he calls "a bunch of crooks". His reaction is innocent and emotional. **Mandela**

faced the far greater challenge of apartheid, which denied freedom to his people. He felt anger and pain but turned them into a lifelong struggle, accepting prison and separation from his family. He learnt that courage is "the triumph over fear" and that both oppressor and oppressed must be freed. Lencho relies on God; Mandela on struggle and sacrifice, but both refuse to give up.

CBSE 2024 · 2/4/1 · Q10(A)

6 marks

Grief is natural to all loss. Present an analysis of the approaches of Lencho and Kisa Gotami in dealing with their losses, comparing them. You may begin: "One acknowledges that Lencho had unwavering faith in God whereas Kisa Gotami in her grief, believed that her son ..., however ..." (A Letter to God and The Sermon at Benares) (100–120 words)

Solution

One acknowledges that Lencho had unwavering faith in God, whereas Kisa Gotami in her grief believed that her son could be brought back to life; however, the two found very different kinds of comfort. When hail destroyed Lencho's crop, he wrote a letter to God for a hundred pesos. His faith was so strong that when he received seventy, he did not doubt God but blamed the post-office employees. His approach was hopeful but innocent; he expected material help. Kisa Gotami carried her dead son from house to house and finally to the Buddha. Asked to fetch mustard seed from a house where no one had died, she discovered that death is universal. Her grief turned into wisdom and acceptance. Lencho sought relief; Kisa gained understanding, which is the deeper lesson.



CBSE BOARD PAPER

2026 · Q.P. Code 2/2/1

Time: 3 hours

Maximum marks: 80

Section A: Reading

1. Read the following passage carefully:

(1) *In the fast-evolving landscape of the present age, digital saturation and algorithmically curated lives, the phenomenon of FOMO – the Fear of Missing Out – has progressed from a fleeting psychological discomfort into a pervasive cultural condition. Initially, the term was coined to describe the anxiety provoked by the perception that others are participating in rewarding experiences from which one is absent. FOMO now pervades virtually in every dimension of contemporary existence, fuelled largely by the continuous updates of edited content on social media platforms. Significantly, it is the anxiety that others are experiencing something more fulfilling, exciting, or meaningful.*

(2) *The roots of FOMO lie in the interplay between the evolutionary instincts of an individual and modern technology. It may be traced as a fundamental human trait – the innate desire to belong. Man – being a social creature naturally, always tries to seek inclusion and belonging as a means of survival. Albeit, nowadays social media has escalated this instinct by bothering individuals with real-time updates of others' lives – carefully edited vacations, career milestones or even temporal joys framed as extraordinary. Each notification becomes a reminder of what we are not doing, a mirror reflecting our perceived inadequacies.*

(3) *FOMO is not solely a personal affliction; it is a cultural artifact also, shaped by the values of a society that equates busyness with worth and novelty with happiness. Moreover, consumerism fuels this fire with brands exploiting FOMO through limited time offers, exclusive events, and influencer-driven trends that promise belonging or status. The rise of the 'experience economy', where memories and moments are commodified, intensifies the pressure to participate in everything from music festivals to viral food craze.*

(4) *Furthermore, FOMO has created profound shifts in behaviour also. Due to this, the decision-making process has become increasingly worrisome, with people hesitating to commit to plans for fear of a better alternative emerging later. It often leads to impulsive choices, such as overspending on unnecessary products, overcommitting to events or making hasty life decisions to avoid feeling excluded. People, due to FOMO, struggle to focus on their priorities because they are distracted by what others are doing. Even highlighted reels of professional journeys shared online by others breed discontent and cause anxiety and dissatisfaction, where no experience feels complete.*

(5) *The gloomy side of FOMO manifests in lowered self-esteem, impaired concentration and in severe cases, depression. Ironically, the more one tries to engage with multiple activities to 'keep up', the greater it leads to emotional exhaustion. The illusion of missing out on something 'better' elsewhere robs individuals of their ability to engage themselves fully in their present experiences.*

(6) *To overcome the Fear of Missing Out we require intentional strategies. To avoid constant comparison, specific timings for checking the apps and social media should be set. One can also engage oneself in mindful breathing or meditation to stay grounded to the present. By prioritizing self-awareness and authentic experiences, one can take the edge off FOMO's grip and cultivate a richer, more satisfying life without chasing external validation. Finally, we need to recognize that carefully selected online portrayals, which are essentially selective, generate emotional resilience.*

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

- (i) What is the primary psychological trigger behind FOMO in the context of social media usage? (Paragraph 1) (A) physical fatigue (B) fear of rejection from loved ones (C) need of privacy to keep oneself safe (D) fear of being left out of rewarding experiences (1)
- (ii) Complete the following with the correct option from the two given below: FOMO has entered every dimension of a person's existence because _____. (A) more exciting events are taking place nowadays (B) of constant edits and updates on the social media

platforms (Paragraph 1) (1)

(iii) What is the impact of the 'experience economy' on individuals? (Paragraph 3) (1)

(iv) How does FOMO affect an individual's decision-making ability? (Paragraph 4) (2)

(v) Support the writer's viewpoint that FOMO leads to emotional consequences. (Paragraph 4) (1)

(vi) List two effective ways to deal with Fear of Missing Out (FOMO). (Paragraph 6) (2)

(vii) State whether the following statement is True or False: People need to make an effort to come out of their FOMO state of mind. (Paragraph 6) (1)

(viii) Complete the following with the correct option from the ones given below. In the phrase 'generate emotional resilience', the word 'resilience' refers to the ability to (A) support and create more social content. (B) withstand emotional anxiety of FOMO. (C) accelerate the notifications on social media. (D) give in to digital social pressure. (Paragraph 6) (1)

2. Read the following passage carefully:

(1) *The craze for cosmetics has escalated globally, driven by evolving beauty standards and social media influence. The cosmetics industry thrives on innovation, offering various products catering to various skin types and preferences. In India, the cosmetics industry has witnessed a remarkable growth over the past decade, driven by rising 'disposable incomes', increased urbanization, and changing lifestyles. In contemporary times, people are more aware about their personal grooming.*

(2) *In the year 2024, the Indian cosmetics market generated revenue of approximately ₹ 1,34,000 crore and is projected to reach around ₹ 2,40,000 crore by 2028. This robust performance is driven as a result of strong e-commerce and growing demand for organic and premium product offerings due to increasing awareness of personal grooming, skin care routines among consumers, especially teenagers and young adults, who are the dominant demographic in cosmetics purchase, as they seek trendy and innovative solutions.*

(3) *The cosmetics industry is broadly divided into various segments such as skin care, hair care, colour cosmetics, fragrances, and personal hygiene products. Skincare leads the segments, accounting for nearly 35% of the market, followed by hair care at 25%. Colour cosmetics – including make-up products have seen significant growth, especially post-pandemic, due to the rise of e-commerce and social media. E-commerce platforms have played a crucial role in expanding access to cosmetics especially in Tier II and Tier III cities. In fact, online sales contribute to around 25% of total cosmetics sales in India.*

(4) *Over and above that, men's grooming has emerged as a significant segment, valued at around ₹ 25,000 crore in the year 2024 with increasing demand for beard care, skin care and fragrances customized to men. This growth is fuelled by social media influencers, coupled with the increase of gender-neutral cosmetic formulations. This shows an aspirational pursuit of personal refinement, where appearance augments confidence, dismantling archaic stereotypes associated with male cosmetics consumption.*

(5) *Though the cosmetics industry plays a vital role in the Indian economy, it faces several challenges including managing intense competition, complying with regulations, ensuring product quality, and addressing ethical sourcing concerns. In addition, the industry struggles with copied products, adapting to changing consumer preferences and navigating the complexities of the supply chain.*

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

(i) Complete the sentence with a reason: The global demand for beauty products has intensified because of _____. (Paragraph 1) (1)

(ii) What does the phrase 'thrives on innovation' tell us about the cosmetic industry? (A) The industry is slow-growing. (B) The industry is growing and evolving by the day. (C) The industry is becoming popular in rural areas. (D) The industry is gradually becoming more expensive. (Paragraph 1) (1)

(iii) Identify the word that indicates that the cosmetics industry is anticipated to grow. (Paragraph 2) (1)

(iv) Given that teenagers and young adults form the primary group for cosmetics purchases, what are the key factors that shape their buying decisions? (Paragraph 2) (1)

(v) Select the option that is true for the Assertion and Reason given below. Assertion: The Indian cosmetics market generated a profit of approximately ₹ 1,34,000 crore in 2024. Reason: It became possible due to strong e-commerce and growing demand for organic and premium product offerings. (A) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, and the Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion. (B) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true,

- but the Reason is not the correct explanation of the Assertion. (C) The Assertion is true, but the Reason is false. (D) The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true. (Paragraph 2) (1)
- (vi) How has the rise of e-commerce platforms impacted the revenue of the Indian cosmetics industry? Explain in 30 – 40 words. (Paragraph 3) (1)
- (vii) Based on your understanding of Paragraph (3), fill in the blank with suitable options: The skincare segment currently dominates the Indian cosmetics industry. Currently its share is _____ (20%, 25%, 35%) approximately. (1)
- (viii) Complete the sentence suitably. That men's grooming has increased the demand for gender-neutral cosmetic formulations symbolizes _____. (Paragraph 4) (1)
- (ix) Mention any two major challenges faced by the cosmetics industry at present. (Paragraph 5) (2)

Section B: Grammar and writing

3. (i) Fill in the blank with the correct form of the word in brackets (portion of a report): The group _____ (walk) for hours through forests and hills in Mexico before it reached the barbed wire fence, marking the boundary of the forest. 1
- OR**
- (ii) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option: _____ (Several/Both/All) people attended the convention because the entry was open to all at a very nominal fee. 1
- OR**
- (iii) Identify the error and supply the correction (from a story): The farmer told his sons that he had hidden a treasure in the fields but he had forget the actual place. 1
- OR**
- (iv) Harry: Good morning Bobby, how do you do? Bobby: Quite well, thank you; but these are hard times. Complete: Harry wished Bobby good morning and enquired about his well-being. Bobby thanked him and said that he was quite well, but remarked _____. 1
- OR**
- (v) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction: I don't know what it is. It feel like an incredibly lucky day for me. (A) don't – doesn't (B) is – have (C) feel – feels (D) lucky – luckily 1
- OR**
- (vi) Select the correct reporting: Sahil said to Shekhar, "Which are your books?" (A) Sahil asked Shekhar which his books were. (B) Sahil asked Shekhar which books are yours. (C) Sahil asked Shekhar which has been his books. (D) Sahil asked Shekhar which are his books. 1
- OR**
- (vii) Complete with the correct form of the verb: A case _____ against the unidentified truck driver for causing damage to the street poles due to negligence and rash driving. (A) was registered (B) is register (C) have been registered (D) may registered 1
- OR**
- (viii) Fill in the blank: Anita _____ (ought to/would/have to) likely complete the project on time as her team is collaborating effectively. 1

OR

(ix) Identify the error and supply the correction (hair salon's instruction manual): All tools and frequently touched surfaces must be disinfect after each client's treatment.

1

OR

(x) Report Suhani's question to Sneha: Which books are we going to purchase today from the Book Fest? Suhani asked Sneha ____.

1

OR

(xi) Replace the underlined word: Since Sheenam study diligently for months, she will clear the competitive exam. (A) studying (B) was studied (C) has been studying (D) have been studied

1

OR

(xii) Identify the error and supply the correction: True tradition is not in celebrations, but in the culture we carries forward.

1

4. (A) You are Sanjana/Sanjit of Avenue Apartments, XYZ Colony, Sakshamgarh. Recently, you read in the newspaper about adulteration in food and dairy products consumed by us daily. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily expressing your views on food adulteration. Highlight the health risks of eating such foods and suggest measures to tackle the issue.

5

OR

(B) Going for a walk in your residential colony offers a convenient way to integrate physical activity into your daily routine. Write a letter to the Director, Municipal Board, requesting maintenance of the colony parks, installation of lighting poles, and repair of walking tracks to facilitate walkers and create a safe community space. You are Rita/Raghav Mishra, President RWA, Senatown.

5

5. (A) School activities that help children in their personality development: student councils, clubs; activities in the Morning Assembly; celebration of important days; organization of various competitions; sports and academic activities. Analyse the details and write an analytical paragraph about the impact of school activities on students, focusing on factors like leadership, responsibility, communication skills, discipline, daily motivation and team building.

5

OR

(B) "In today's world, fashion is not just about clothes, it is driven by images and impressions. Fashion trends provide a powerful reflection of society's evolution, and creativity." Write an analytical paragraph about how these factors have shaped fashion trends in recent years, with key causes, effects and future implications: creative expression; social media influence; celebrity endorsements; blend of traditional and modern styles; commercialization of festivals; customized fashion choices; rising e-commerce.

5

Section C: Literature

6. (A) Read the extract and answer the questions. Out of the experience of an extraordinary human disaster that lasted too long, must be born a society of which all humanity will be proud. We, who were outlaws not so long ago, have today been given the rare privilege to be host to the nations of the world on our own soil. 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 justice, for peace, for human dignity. (*Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*) (i) Which option justifies Mandela's statement "We, who were outlaws ..."? (A) The international leaders who came to attend the ceremony (B) Due to apartheid, many countries broke diplomatic relations with South Africa (C) The Commonwealth countries and their people (D) The people who fought in the Anglo-Boer War (ii) Mandela thanked the distinguished international guests because _____. (iii) What is the significance of the phrase "extraordinary human disaster" in his speech? (iv) Mandela's tone is: 1. unifying 2. determined 3. aggressive 4. pessimistic 5. hopeless. (A) 1, 2 and 4 (B) 2 and 4 (C) 1 and 2 (D) 4 and 5

OR

- (B) Read the extract and answer the questions. "Richard was competitive," Mr. Weiherer continued, "but not in a bad sense." He explained, "Richard wasn't interested in winning for winning's sake or winning to get a prize. Rather, he was winning because he wanted to do the best job he could. For the right reasons, he wants to be the best." And that is one of the ingredients in the making of a scientist. Start with a first-rate mind, add curiosity, and mix in the will to win for the right reasons. Ebright has these qualities. (*The Making of a Scientist*) (i) What can we infer about Richard from "Richard was competitive, but not in a bad sense"? (ii) Mention the "ingredients" required in the making of a scientist. (iii) Mr Weiherer suggests that Richard was _____ (lethargic / persistent). (iv) What is NOT true about Ebright? (A) strongly curious (B) bright-minded (C) competitive spirit (D) irrational

7. (A) Read the extract and answer the questions. Though to distinguish beasts of prey
A novice might nonplus,
The Crocodile you always may
Tell from the Hyena thus:
Hyenas come with merry smiles;
But if they weep they're Crocodiles.
The true Chameleon is small,
A lizard sort of thing;
He hasn't any ears at all,
And not a single wing.
If there is nothing on the tree,
'Tis the chameleon you see. (*How to Tell Wild Animals*) (i) How does the poet describe the crocodile's tears? (A) genuine and heartfelt (B) joyful and sincere (C) false and deceptive (D) cold and indifferent (ii) What confusion will a newcomer face in telling a hyena from a crocodile, as humorously described? (iii) Mention two characteristics of a chameleon from the extract. (iv) The poet's tone is _____ (playful and humorous / serious and confused).

OR

(B) Read the extract and answer the questions. Did you finish your homework, Amanda? 5

Did you tidy your room, Amanda?

I thought I told you to clean your shoes, Amanda!

(I am an orphan, roaming the street.

I pattern soft dust with my hushed, bare feet.

The silence is golden, the freedom is sweet.) *(Amanda!)* (i) Amanda wants to be an orphan because ____.

(ii) What does the image of Amanda "roaming barefoot in the dusty street" signify?

(iii) Amanda's tone while imagining herself as an orphan is: (A) excited (B) fearful (C) angry (D) peaceful

(iv) What does the speaker do on the dust?

8. **(i)** In "Fire and Ice", how does the intense human emotion symbolised by fire lead to the destruction of the world? (40–50 words) 3

OR

(ii) Mention the details that Anne provides about her family in her diary. (From the Diary of Anne Frank) (40–50 words) 3

OR

(iii) Bread plays a pivotal role in Goan culture and tradition. Support with evidence from the text. (Glimpses of India: A Baker from Goa) (40–50 words) 3

OR

(iv) What happened when Maxwell took Mijbil to the bathroom? (Mijbil the Otter) (40–50 words) 3

OR

(v) Despite her young age, how does Valli manage to gather the subtle details about the bus journey? (Madam Rides the Bus) (40–50 words) 3

9. **(i)** Why does Hari Singh find it pleasant to work for Anil, though he was a thief? (The Thief's Story) (40–50 words) 3

OR

(ii) How does Matilda face "the horrible life of necessity"? (The Necklace) (40–50 words) 3

OR

(iii) The teacher built up Bholi's confidence on her first day at school. Discuss. (Bholi) (40–50 words) 3

10. **(A)** How do Lencho ("A Letter to God") and Kisa Gotami ("The Sermon at Benares") respond to suffering and loss? How did they overcome their losses? (100–120 words) 6

OR

(B) How does the contrast between the pilot's fear in "The Black Aeroplane" and Custard's initial cowardice in "The Tale of Custard the Dragon" show that courage can appear in unexpected characters when circumstances demand it? (100–120 words) 6

11. (A) Compare and contrast Tricky's condition before and after his stay at the surgery. How does this show the role of proper care, discipline and environment in his well-being? (A Triumph of Surgery) (100–120 words)

6

OR

- (B) How do Think-Tank's arrogance and ignorance contribute to the theme of wit over power in "The Book that Saved the Earth"? (100–120 words)

6

Solutions · CBSE 2026 · 2/2/1

- Q1**
- (i) (D) fear of being left out of rewarding experiences.
 - (ii) (B) of constant edits and updates on the social media platforms.
 - (iii) It **intensifies the pressure** on individuals to participate in everything, from music festivals to viral food crazes, because memories and moments are turned into commodities.
 - (iv) People hesitate to commit to plans for fear that a better alternative may come up later, and they make **impulsive choices**: overspending on unnecessary products, overcommitting to events or taking hasty life decisions so as not to feel excluded.
 - (v) Even highlight reels of others' professional journeys shared online breed **discontent, anxiety and dissatisfaction**, so that no experience feels complete.
 - (vi) (1) Set specific timings for checking apps and social media, to avoid constant comparison.
(2) Practise mindful breathing or meditation to stay grounded in the present (also: prioritise self-awareness and authentic experiences).
 - (vii) True (overcoming FOMO requires intentional strategies).
 - (viii) (B) withstand emotional anxiety of FOMO.

- Q2**
- (i) ...evolving **beauty standards and social media influence**.
 - (ii) (B) The industry is growing and evolving by the day.
 - (iii) **projected** (to reach around ₹ 2,40,000 crore by 2028).
 - (iv) Their wish for **trendy and innovative products**, together with awareness of personal grooming and skin-care routines (and a growing demand for organic and premium products).
 - (v) (D) The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true. (The passage speaks of **revenue**, not profit, of ₹ 1,34,000 crore.)
 - (vi) E-commerce has expanded access to cosmetics, especially in Tier II and Tier III cities, and boosted sales of colour cosmetics after the pandemic; online sales now make up about **25% of total cosmetics sales**, raising the industry's revenue.
 - (vii) 35%.
 - (viii) ...an **aspirational pursuit of personal refinement**, where appearance boosts confidence and old stereotypes about men using cosmetics are being broken.
 - (ix) Any two: intense competition; complying with regulations; ensuring product quality; ethical sourcing concerns; copied (fake) products; changing consumer preferences; complex supply chains.

- Q3(i)** **had walked / had been walking** (CBSE also accepts "walked"). The walking happened before another past action ("reached"), so the past perfect (continuous, for duration "for hours") is best.

- Q3(ii)** **Several**. "Both" refers to exactly two; "All people" (without "the") is too general for a particular event. "Several people" = a fair number.

- Q3(iii)** Error: **forget** → Correction: **forgotten**. The past perfect is "had + past participle": forget–forgot–forgotten.
- Q3(iv)** **that those were hard times**. "These" → "those"; "are" → "were".
- Q3(v)** **(C) feel** → **feels**. The singular subject "It" takes "feels" in the simple present.
- Q3(vi)** **(A) Sahil asked Shekhar which his books were**. Statement order (subject "his books" before verb "were"), "are" → "were", "your" → "his".
- Q3(vii)** **(A) was registered**. The case is acted upon (passive) and the event is past: was + past participle. (B) and (D) lack the participle; (C) has a plural verb with a singular subject.
- Q3(viii)** **would**. "Would likely" expresses a probable outcome; "ought to" (duty) and "have to" (necessity, also wrong agreement) do not fit with "likely".
- Q3(ix)** Error: **disinfect** → Correction: **disinfected**. Passive with a modal: must + be + past participle.
- Q3(x)** **which books they were going to purchase that day from the Book Fest**. Statement order; "we" → "they"; "are" → "were"; "today" → "that day".
- Q3(xi)** **(C) has been studying**. "For months" shows an action begun in the past and still going on: present perfect continuous, singular "has" for "Sheenam".
- Q3(xii)** Error: **carries** → Correction: **carry**. The plural subject "we" takes the base form "carry".
- Q4(A)** Avenue Apartments
XYZ Colony
Sakshamgarh
11 March 2026

The Editor
The Hindustan Times
New Delhi

Subject: The menace of food adulteration

Sir

Through your esteemed daily I wish to express my concern over the widespread adulteration of food and dairy products that we consume every day.

Recent reports show milk mixed with detergent and urea, spices coloured with chemical dyes, and sweets made from fake khoya. Greedy traders adulterate food to earn more profit at the cost of public health.

Eating such food causes stomach disorders, food poisoning, allergies and, in the long run, serious diseases of the liver and kidneys, and even cancer. Children and the elderly are the worst affected.

Food safety officials must conduct regular raids and sample tests, and offenders should be heavily fined and jailed. Consumers too should buy certified products, check labels and report

suspicious items.

Yours truly

Sanjit

Value points: adulteration in daily food and dairy; profit motive; health risks: food poisoning, organ damage, cancer; measures: raids, testing, strict punishment, consumer awareness.

Q4(B) Resident Welfare Association

Senatown

11 March 2026

The Director

Municipal Board

Senatown

Subject: Maintenance of colony parks and walking tracks

Sir

On behalf of the residents of Senatown, I request your attention to the poor condition of the parks in our colony.

Many residents, especially senior citizens and women, depend on the colony parks for their daily walk. However, the grass is overgrown, benches are broken and garbage lies in the corners. The walking tracks are cracked and uneven, causing people to trip and fall. With no lighting poles, the parks become dark and unsafe after sunset.

I request you to arrange regular cleaning and gardening, repair the walking tracks, and install lighting poles at the earliest. These steps will encourage fitness and create a safe space for the community.

Yours faithfully

Raghav Mishra

President, RWA

Value points: walking keeps residents fit; parks neglected; broken tracks, no lights, unsafe; request: maintenance, lights, track repair.

Q5(A) School activities play a vital role in shaping the personality of students beyond the classroom.

Student councils and clubs foster leadership and a sense of responsibility, as students plan events and take decisions for others. Activities in the Morning Assembly, such as speeches, news reading and quizzes, build communication skills and confidence, while the daily routine itself instils discipline and gives students motivation to start the day positively. Moreover, the celebration of important days makes them aware of their culture, values and social issues.

Various competitions encourage healthy rivalry and help students cope with both success and failure. In addition, sports and academic activities promote teamwork, as students learn to cooperate towards a shared goal. Therefore, a balanced programme of such activities helps produce confident, disciplined and well-rounded individuals.

Q5(B) In recent years, fashion has become a reflection of society's changing values and creativity rather than merely a matter of clothing. A major cause is the desire for creative expression, as young people use fashion to show their individuality. Social media has accelerated this, spreading new trends across the world within days, while celebrity endorsements make

certain styles instantly popular. Interestingly, many trends now blend traditional and modern styles, such as kurtas with jeans, keeping cultural roots alive. Furthermore, the commercialisation of festivals has turned occasions into shopping seasons, and the demand for customised fashion choices has grown. Rising e-commerce makes all these options easily available. As a result, fashion has become more diverse but also faster and more wasteful. In future, the industry must balance creativity with sustainability.

- Q6(A)** (i) **(B)**.
 (ii) they had come to share with South Africans **a common victory for justice, peace and human dignity**.
 (iii) The phrase refers to **apartheid**, the long period of racial discrimination and oppression that brought suffering, violence and humiliation to millions. Mandela uses it to say that from this tragedy a new, just society must be born of which all humanity would be proud.
 (iv) **(C)** unifying and determined.

- Q6(B)** (i) He competed **to do his best work, not just to win prizes**; his ambition was healthy.
 (ii) A **first-rate mind, curiosity**, and the **will to win for the right reasons**.
 (iii) **persistent**.
 (iv) **(D) irrational**.

- Q7(A)** (i) **(C) false and deceptive** ("crocodile tears").
 (ii) A novice might be **puzzled** about which beast of prey is which; the poet's "rule" is that hyenas come smiling, while if the beast weeps it is a crocodile.
 (iii) It is **small, lizard-like**, has **no ears and no wings**, and **blends so well with the tree** that you see nothing there (camouflage). (Any two.)
 (iv) **playful and humorous**.

- Q7(B)** (i) an orphan has **no parents to nag and command her**; she would be free.
 (ii) It signifies **freedom and peace**: wandering where she likes, unbound by rules, enjoying silence, away from the constant instructions at home.
 (iii) **(D) peaceful**.
 (iv) She **makes patterns in the soft dust with her bare feet**.

- Q8(i)** Fire symbolises desire: greed, lust, ambition and anger. Like fire, desire spreads fast and is never satisfied; it drives people to conflict, war and exploitation of nature. Frost, having "tasted of desire", believes such uncontrolled passion can consume humanity and end the world quickly.

- Q8(ii)** Anne's father was thirty-six and her mother twenty-five when they married. Her sister Margot was born in 1926 in Frankfurt and Anne in 1929. Being Jewish, the family emigrated to Holland in 1933, where her father became managing director of Opekta. Her grandmother died in 1942, which hurt Anne deeply.

- Q8(iii)** Marriage gifts are meaningless without the sweet bread called bol; cakes and bolinhas are a must at Christmas and other festivals; the lady of the house prepares sandwiches for her daughter's engagement. The baker's furnace is still alive, and baking remains a profitable, respected profession in Goa.

- Q8(iv)** On a lead and body-belt, Mijbil went wild with joy in the water, plunging and rolling and making "great slooshing" splashes for half an hour. Two days later he escaped, went to the bathroom alone and worked the tap until he made the water flow, showing an otter's love of water.
-
- Q8(v)** Valli carefully listened to the conversations of neighbours and people who regularly used the bus, and asked a few discreet questions. She learnt the distance to the town, the fare (thirty paise each way) and the timings, so she could plan to return before her mother woke from her afternoon nap.
-
- Q9(i)** Anil was kind and easy-going. He fed and sheltered Hari, taught him to cook, to write his name and to add numbers, and did not mind the small profit Hari made while shopping. Anil was the most trusting person Hari had robbed, and the hope of education made the work pleasant.
-
- Q9(ii)** To repay the 36,000 francs borrowed for the replacement necklace, Matilda sent away the servant, moved to a small attic and did all the heavy housework herself: washing, scrubbing, carrying water. She bargained at shops for every sou. After ten years she looked old, coarse and strong, but she bore it bravely.
-
- Q9(iii)** Unlike others, the teacher spoke to Bholi gently, stroked her and asked her name. When Bholi stammered, she encouraged her to try again and gave her a picture book, saying that learning would make her respected and no one would laugh at her. For the first time Bholi felt valued and hopeful.
-
- Q10(A)** Both suffer a heavy loss but respond differently. **Lencho** loses his entire corn crop to a hailstorm. Though sad, he does not lose hope; with complete faith in God he writes a letter asking for a hundred pesos. The postmaster and staff send him seventy pesos, and he overcomes his loss through this help, though he blames the post-office employees for the missing money. **Kisa Gotami** loses her only son and, mad with grief, carries his body from house to house seeking medicine. The Buddha asks her to bring mustard seed from a house where no one has died. She finds none and realises that death is common to all. She overcomes her grief through **understanding and acceptance**. Lencho is helped from outside; Kisa finds peace within.
-
- Q10(B)** The **pilot** is an experienced airman flying his Dakota home. When he enters the storm, his instruments fail, his fuel runs low and he is afraid, yet he chooses to fly on and trusts the mysterious black aeroplane, which guides him to safety. His courage lies in controlling fear and acting calmly. **Custard** is called a coward by everyone; he cries for a "nice safe cage" while Belinda and her pets boast of their bravery. But when the pirate climbs in through the window, the boasters flee and Custard jumps up, snorting, and gobbles the pirate. In both cases courage appears when the situation demands it: the frightened pilot keeps going, and the "cowardly" dragon becomes the real hero. Courage is shown in action, not in boasting.
-
- Q11(A)** **Before:** pampered by Mrs Pumphrey with cream cakes, chocolates, malt and cod-liver oil, Tricki became grossly fat, lethargic and ill. He refused food, vomited, lay panting and had a bloodshot, rheumy look. **After:** at the surgery he was given only water for two days, then joined the other dogs, ran, played and fought for his food. Within a fortnight he became lively,

slim and "a transformed animal", leaping and wagging his tail when Mrs Pumphrey came. The contrast shows that love must be balanced with discipline: a proper diet, regular exercise and an active, healthy environment are what keep a pet well. Herriot's "triumph of surgery" was really a triumph of common sense over foolish indulgence.

Q11(B) Think-Tank, the ruler of Mars, calls himself "the mightiest intellect in the universe" and insists on being addressed as "Your Intelligence, Your Wisdom". He refuses to admit ignorance and keeps insulting his subordinates. When the Martians find "Mother Goose", he misreads the nursery rhymes: the cow jumping over the moon means Earthlings have advanced space travel, Humpty Dumpty's fall is a threat to him because he too is egg-shaped. Apprentice Noodle tactfully feeds him "suggestions" without offending him. Fooled by his own arrogance, Think-Tank panics and orders his forces to evacuate Mars and abandon the invasion. A humble book and Noodle's wit defeat the powerful but foolish ruler, showing that pride and ignorance are weaker than intelligence.



All the best for your boards!

Complete chapter-wise notes, NCERT solutions and more at **notesbazar.in**