CBSE Class 10 Painting 2026-27

Sample Paper with Solutions

Conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)

Time Allowed: 2 hours **Maximum Marks: 30**

General Instructions

(i) There are **9 questions** in this question paper with internal choice.

(ii) **SECTION A** consists of **8 multiple-choice questions** carrying **1 mark** each.

(iii) **SECTION B** consists of **5 short answer questions** carrying **2 marks** each (Answer in about **100 words**).

(iv) **SECTION C** consists of **3 long answer questions** carrying **6 marks** each (Answer in about **200 words**). Attempt **any two** questions.

(v) There is no change in the Question Paper Design and Assessment Pattern for Academic Session 2026-27.

Section A (8 marks)

Select the right answer from the given option.

1(i). Which are the two colours popularly used in Warli painting? [1 mark]

(A) Indian red and white

(B) White and yellow

(C) White and blue

(D) Red and green

Correct Answer: (A) Indian red and white

Solution:

Concept:

- Warli painting is a tribal wall art of the Warli people of Maharashtra, mainly from the Thane and Palghar region.
- The question asks which two colours give this art its typical look.

Step 1: Recall how a Warli wall is made The artist first coats the mud wall of the hut with a reddish-brown earth colour. This gives an Indian red or red ochre background.
Then the figures are drawn in white, which is made from rice paste. A bamboo stick chewed at the end is used as the brush.
So the picture is always white figures on an Indian red or brown base.

Step 2: Check each option Option A, Indian red and white: this is the traditional pair, so it is correct.
Option B, white and yellow: yellow is not a base or a main colour in classic Warli work, so it is wrong.
Option C, white and blue: blue is not used in the traditional style, so it is wrong.
Option D, red and green: green is not part of the classic Warli palette, so it is wrong.

Step 3: Conclusion The two colours popularly used in Warli painting are Indian red and white. This is option A.

Quick Tip to Solve: Think of white rice-paste figures on a red mud wall.

1(ii). To which state does the famous Madhubani painting belong? [1 mark]

(A) Odisha

(B) West Bengal

(C) Manipur

(D) Bihar

Correct Answer: (D) Bihar

Solution:

Concept:

- Madhubani painting is also called Mithila painting.
- The question asks for the Indian state where it began and is still practised.

Step 1: Recall the origin The art grew in the Mithila region, around the Madhubani district of north Bihar.
Women of the region painted on the walls and floors of their homes for festivals and weddings. Today

the art is also done on paper and cloth.

Step 2: Check each option Odisha is known for Pattachitra and palm-leaf engraving, so option A is wrong.
West Bengal is known for Kalighat and Bengal pata scroll painting, so option B is wrong.
Manipur is known for its dance and textiles rather than Madhubani art, so option C is wrong.
Bihar is the home of Madhubani painting, so option D is correct.

Step 3: Conclusion Madhubani painting belongs to Bihar. This is option D.

Quick Tip to Solve: Madhubani is also known as Mithila painting. Find the state of Mithila.

1(iii). Oil painting can be done on which base? [1 mark]

(A) Kite paper

(B) Canvas

(C) Cartridge sheet

(D) New print paper

Correct Answer: (B) Canvas

Solution:

Concept:

- Oil colours are thick, heavy and dry slowly.
- The base used for them must be strong, a little flexible and able to hold the paint without tearing.

Step 1: Why canvas suits oil colours Canvas is a woven cloth, usually cotton or linen, stretched on a wooden frame and coated with a primer.
The primer stops the oil from soaking into the cloth. The rough weave holds thick layers of paint well.

Step 2: Check each option Kite paper is thin and light. It would tear and soak up the oil, so option A is wrong.
Canvas is the standard base for oil painting, so option B is correct.
Cartridge sheet is mainly used with pencil, pen and water-based colours. It is not meant for heavy oil work, so option C is wrong.
Newsprint is thin and low in quality. Oil would pass through it, so option D is wrong.

Step 3: Conclusion Oil painting can be done on canvas. This is option B.

Quick Tip to Solve: Which base is a stretched, primed cloth that holds thick paint?

1(iv). Poster colours are basically used on: [1 mark]

(A) A variety of oil sheet

(B) A variety of metals

(C) A variety of papers

(D) A variety of wooden planks

Correct Answer: (C) A variety of papers

Solution:

Concept:

- Poster colours are opaque, water-based colours.

- They are bright, flat and easy to mix and apply with a brush.

Step 1: Where they work best Because they are water-based, they sit well on absorbent surfaces. Paper in its many kinds is the common choice: cartridge paper, chart paper, poster board and drawing sheets.

Step 2: Check each option Oil sheet is a surface made for oil colours and resists water-based paint, so option A is wrong.
Metals do not absorb water-based colour, so it peels off. Option B is wrong.
A variety of papers is the usual surface for poster colours, so option C is correct.
Wooden planks need a primer and a strong paint such as oil or acrylic, so option D is wrong.

Step 3: Conclusion Poster colours are basically used on a variety of papers. This is option C.

Quick Tip to Solve: Poster colours are water-based and opaque. Which surface suits them?

1(v). To make a painting more interesting, artists create a focal point, which is referred to as: [1 mark]

(A) Unity

(B) Variety

(C) Rhythm

(D) Emphasis

Correct Answer: (D) Emphasis

Solution:

Concept:

- A focal point is the spot in a picture that catches the eye first.
- The question asks for the principle of design that creates it.

Step 1: Recall the principles of design Emphasis means giving one part of the work extra importance so the viewer looks there first. Artists do this with a bright colour, a bigger size, strong contrast or a central position.

Step 2: Check each option Unity means all parts of the work belong together as one whole. It does not point to one spot, so option A is wrong.
Variety means using different colours, shapes and lines to keep interest. It does not set a focal point, so option B is wrong.
Rhythm means repeating elements to create a sense of movement. Option C is wrong.
Emphasis creates the focal point, so option D is correct.

Step 3: Conclusion The focal point is created by emphasis. This is option D.

Quick Tip to Solve: Which principle makes one part of a picture stand out?

1(vi). Which of the following is not an element of art? [1 mark]

(A) Angle

(B) Shape

(C) Texture

(D) Colour

Correct Answer: (A) Angle

Solution:

Concept:

- We need the one word that is not on the list of elements of art.

Step 1: Recall the elements of art The basic elements are line, shape, form, colour, tone (value), texture and space. Every artwork is built from these.

Step 2: Check each option Angle is only the opening between two lines that meet. It is not a basic element on the list, so option A is the answer.
Shape is an element, so option B is not the answer.
Texture is an element, so option C is not the answer.
Colour is an element, so option D is not the answer.

Step 3: Conclusion Angle is not an element of art. This is option A.

Quick Tip to Solve: Recall the list: line, shape, form, colour, tone, texture, space.

1(vii). Which of the following pencils is most suitable for drawing? [1 mark]

(A) HB

(B) 8H

(C) 6B

(D) HH

Correct Answer: (C) 6B

Solution:

Concept:

- Pencil leads are graded by hardness.
- The letter H means hard and the letter B means soft and black.
- HB sits in the middle.

Step 1: Link the grade to drawing Artistic drawing needs dark lines, rich shading and a wide range of tones from light grey to deep black.
Soft leads such as 6B give this. They leave a dark, smooth mark with light pressure and blend easily.

Step 2: Check each option HB is a middle grade used mostly for writing and light sketching. The question asks for the one most suitable for drawing, so it is not the key.
8H is a very hard lead. It makes faint, thin lines and is used for technical work, so option B is wrong.
6B is a soft, dark lead that suits drawing and shading, so option C is correct as per the marking scheme.
HH is not a standard pencil grade, so option D is wrong.

Step 3: Conclusion The pencil most suitable for drawing is 6B. This is option C.

Quick Tip to Solve: H means hard and B means soft and dark. Drawing needs rich dark tones.

1(viii). Which of the following is not a painting technique? [1 mark]

(A) Dry brush work

(B) Wet-on-wet

(C) Impasto

(D) Tertiary

Correct Answer: (D) Tertiary

Solution:

Concept:

- A painting technique is a way of applying paint.
- We must find the term that is not a way of applying paint.

Step 1: Meaning of each term Dry brush work: a brush with very little paint is dragged over the surface to give a rough, broken texture.
Wet-on-wet: fresh paint is applied onto a surface that is still wet, so colours blend softly.
Impasto: paint is laid on very thick so that brush strokes stand out.
Tertiary: this is a type of colour. A tertiary colour is made by mixing a primary colour with a neighbouring secondary colour, for example red-orange.

Step 2: Conclusion Tertiary is a colour term, not a technique. This is option D.

Quick Tip to Solve: Primary, secondary and tertiary are groups of colours.

Section B (10 marks)

Questions 2 to 6 are short answer questions carrying 2 marks each, with internal choice.

2(A). Write the difference between shape and form. Give two examples of each. [2 marks]

Solution:

Concept:

- We must state how shape differs from form and give two examples of each.

Step 1: Define shape A shape is flat. It has only two dimensions, length and width. It is shown by an outline or a patch of colour.
Examples: a square and a circle.

Step 2: Define form A form is solid. It has three dimensions: length, width and depth. It takes up space and can be seen from different sides.
In a drawing, form is made to look real with shading and light.
Examples: a cuboid and a sphere.

Step 3: Show the link Each flat shape can grow into a solid form. A square becomes a cuboid and a circle becomes a sphere.

Step 4: Conclusion Shape is two dimensional and form is three dimensional.

Quick Tip to Solve: Think of 2D versus 3D. A square becomes a cuboid.

OR

2(B). What do you understand by positive and negative space in a painting? Why are they important?

[2 marks]

Solution:

Concept:

- We must explain two kinds of space in a painting and say why they matter.

Step 1: Positive space Positive space is the main subject or the area of interest in the picture. It is the part that holds the viewer's attention, such as a figure, a tree or a vase.

Step 2: Negative space Negative space is the area around and in between the main subjects. It is the empty or quiet part of the picture, such as the background or the gap between two objects.

Step 3: Why they are important Together they give balance to the composition. Too many crowded objects feel heavy, and the empty space gives the eye a rest.
They also create a focal point. Good negative space pushes the eye towards the subject, so the picture looks clear and well planned.

Step 4: Conclusion Positive space is the subject and negative space is the area around it. Both are needed for balance and a focal point.

Quick Tip to Solve: Subject versus the area around the subject. Mention balance and focal point.

3(A). Name at least two different types of papers and mediums used in painting. [2 marks]

Solution:

Concept:

- We need to name at least two kinds of paper and at least two mediums, and ideally say which medium goes with which paper.

Step 1: Types of paper Cartridge paper and handmade sheets: used for tempera, watercolour and acrylic colours, which are water-based media.
Papers may be highly textured, cold-pressed or hot-pressed, which changes how the colour sits on them.
Oil paper or canvas paper: thicker in quality and used for oil painting.
Newsprint and thin cartridge paper: used for pencil work, charcoal, dry colours and oil pastels.

Step 2: Types of mediums Water-based mediums: tempera, watercolour and acrylic.
Oil-based medium: oil colours.
Dry mediums: pencil, charcoal, dry colours and oil pastels.

Step 3: Conclusion Papers such as cartridge paper and canvas paper, and mediums such as water-colour and oil colour, are used in painting.

Quick Tip to Solve: Match water-based, oil and dry colours with their papers.

OR

3(B). What is VIBGYOR? Name the colours included in it. [2 marks]

Solution:

Concept:

- VIBGYOR is a short form made from the first letters of seven colours.
- We must explain it and list the colours.

Step 1: Meaning VIBGYOR is also known as the rainbow spectrum. When sunlight passes through raindrops or a prism, it splits into these seven colours.

Step 2: Expand each letter V stands for Violet. I stands for Indigo. B stands for Blue.
G stands for Green. Y stands for Yellow. O stands for Orange. R stands for Red.

Step 3: Conclusion VIBGYOR is the rainbow spectrum of seven colours.

Quick Tip to Solve: Each letter is the first letter of a rainbow colour.

4(A). Explain the uses of different types of brushes in painting. [2 marks]

Solution:

Concept:

- We must name the main types of brush and say what each is used for.

Step 1: Classification by bristles Hog-hair brushes are hard and stiff. They hold thick paint well and are used mostly for oil paints.
Sable-hair brushes are soft and springy. They hold a lot of liquid and are used mostly for water colour.

Step 2: Classification by size and shape Round brushes have a pointed tip. They are used for drawing and fine work.
Flat brushes have a square end. They are used for flat backgrounds, flat surfaces and flat areas.
Filbert brushes are flat with a rounded tip, and they help in soft edges and blending. Mop brushes are large and round, and they carry a lot of water for washes.

Step 3: Conclusion Brushes differ by bristle and shape, and each type suits a particular job.

Quick Tip to Solve: Think of two groups: by bristle (hog, sable) and by shape (round, flat, filbert, mop).

OR

4(B). Write about different types of pencils used in art. [2 marks]

Solution:

Concept:

- We must name the main types of pencils used in art and describe each one.

Step 1: Graphite pencils These are available from 2B to 12B. The softness and darkness increase with the higher numbers.

Step 2: Charcoal pencils These are darker, softer and more fragile than graphite pencils. They are used for deep tonal effects.

Step 3: Colour pencils These are available in various colours. Some are water-based and can be used for colouring with a wet brush.

Step 4: Conclusion Pencils used in art are mainly of three types: graphite, charcoal and colour pencils.

Quick Tip to Solve: Three types: graphite, charcoal, colour.

5(A). A Warli painting shows villagers dancing in a circular formation around a musician. Analyse how line, shape, and composition are used to represent movement and community life. [2 marks]

Solution:

Concept:

- We must analyse three things in the Warli dance scene: line, shape and composition.
- For each one we say how it shows movement or community life.

Step 1: Line Warli painting uses simple lines to form the human figure. Slanting lines are used for the arms and legs of the dancers, and these lines add movement to the figures.

Step 2: Shape Warli painting is a living tradition of Maharashtra. It is characterised by simple geometric shapes, such as the triangle for the body, that depict daily life, nature and rituals.

Step 3: Composition The dancers hold hands and move in a circle around one musician. The circular composition keeps the eye moving round and round. It also shows togetherness, cooperation and the joy of dancing, which brings the spirit of the community alive.

Step 4: Conclusion Line gives movement, shape shows daily life, and the circular composition shows community spirit.

Quick Tip to Solve: Take line, shape and composition one by one and link each to movement or community.

OR

5(B). Write the characteristic features of Madhubani Paintings? [2 marks]

Solution:

Concept:

- We must write the main features that make Madhubani (Mithila) painting recognisable.

Step 1: Style Madhubani paintings are characterised by bold outlines, flat bright colours and decorative patterns. They were traditionally made using natural colours.

Step 2: Themes The themes mainly depict nature, mythology, religious rituals, animals, birds and floral motifs.

Step 3: Composition No empty space is left in the composition. Borders and patterns fill the gaps.

Step 4: Conclusion Madhubani painting has bold outlines, bright flat colours, decorative patterns and a fully filled surface.

Quick Tip to Solve: Think of outline, colour, pattern, theme and use of space.

6(A). The painting of Padmapani Bodhisattva from Ajanta is admired for its grace and spiritual expression. Analyse how the use of line, colour, and posture reflects the Bodhisattva's compassion and calmness. [2 marks]

Solution:

Concept:

- We must show how line, colour and posture in the Padmapani painting express compassion and calm.

Step 1: Background This is a famous mural painting from the Ajanta Caves near Aurangabad, Maharashtra. It is painted in Cave No. 1 in the late 5th century CE and is considered a masterpiece of Gupta-period art.
The Bodhisattva is shown as an embodiment of compassion and selflessness, holding a blue lotus.

Step 2: Line The outlines are smooth, curved and flowing. They give the figure grace and softness, and they show a gentle nature.

Step 3: Colour The colours are soft and harmonious. They give a peaceful, quiet mood to the whole figure.

Step 4: Posture and expression The body is gently bent and relaxed, and the head is slightly bowed. The half-closed eyes look down with a calm face. This posture and expression show kindness and inner peace.

Step 5: Conclusion Line, colour and posture together show the compassion and calmness of the Bodhisattva.

Quick Tip to Solve: Take line, colour and posture one at a time and link each with compassion or calm.

OR

6(B). Why is Bodhisattva made larger than life in comparison to other human forms surrounding by him? [2 marks]

Solution:

Concept:

- In the Ajanta painting the Bodhisattva is drawn much bigger than the people around him.
- We must give the reason.

Step 1: Symbolic use of size In traditional Indian art, size is often used symbolically rather than realistically. A bigger figure means a more important figure.

Step 2: Reason for the larger figure The Bodhisattva is made larger than life to emphasise his spiritual importance and divine status.
The larger scale highlights his superiority, wisdom and compassion. It also shows that he is the central focus of the composition.

Step 3: Effect on the viewer By showing him in a bigger form, the artist draws the viewer's attention to him. It also conveys his elevated position as an enlightened being who guides and protects humanity.

Step 4: Conclusion He is shown larger to stress his spiritual importance and to make him the central focus.

Quick Tip to Solve: In Indian art, size shows importance and not real height.

Section C (12 marks)

Attempt any two questions from the given options (6 marks each).

7(i). The Kailash Temple at Ellora is considered a masterpiece of Indian rock-cut architecture. Write its architectural features [2 marks]

Solution:

Concept:

- We must write the main architectural features of the Kailash Temple, which is Cave No. 16 at Ellora.

Step 1: Patron and date The Rashtrakuta king Krishna I commissioned the world's largest monolithic rock-cut chaityas, viharas and Hindu temples at Ellora in the 8th and 9th centuries CE.

Step 2: Features of the temple Ellora Cave No. 16 is known as the Kailashnath Temple. It is dedicated to Lord Shiva.
It is carved from top to bottom out of a single rock in the Deccan style.
It is rich in symbolism and narrative reliefs.

Step 3: Conclusion The Kailash Temple is a monolithic rock-cut Shiva temple, carved from top to bottom in the Deccan style.

Quick Tip to Solve: Mention patron, dedication, style and how it was carved.

7(ii). Explain its Sculptural excellence. [2 marks]

Solution:

Concept:

- We must describe the sculpture of the Kailash Temple and why it is considered excellent.

Step 1: Sculpture of elephants Sculptures of elephants appear to support parts of the structure. They create a sense of movement and drama.

Step 2: Themes and stories The themes are based on the Shiva Purana. One well-known scene shows Ravana shaking Mount Kailash.

Step 3: Why it is excellent The figures are large, lively and carved with great skill into the rock itself. They tell stories and make the whole temple look alive.

Step 4: Conclusion The sculpture shows lively elephants and Shiva Purana stories such as Ravana shaking Mount Kailash.

Quick Tip to Solve: Think of the elephants and the Ravana scene.

7(iii). Write any four parts of the tempra. [2 marks]

Solution:

Concept:

- The question says tempra, which means a temple. We must write any four parts of the temple.
- The marking scheme lists six parts, and any four of them are enough.

Step 1: Parts of the temple Kalash: the pot-shaped finial at the very top.
Shikhar: the tower above the sanctum.
Garbhagriha: the inner sanctum where the deity is kept.
Nandi Mandapa: the pillared hall for Nandi, the bull of Shiva.
Gopuram: the gateway tower. Parikrama sthal: the path around the sanctum.

Step 2: Conclusion Four parts of the temple are Kalash, Shikhar, Garbhagriha and Nandi Mandapa.

Quick Tip to Solve: Use the temple terms: kalash, shikhar, garbhagriha, mandapa, gopuram.

8. Analyze how elements of art such as line, colour, and shapes/ form are used in a composition to express emotions and ideas. [6 marks]

Solution:

Concept:

- We must show how three elements, line, colour and shape or form, help an artist express emotions and ideas.
- We take them one at a time.

Step 1: Line Line helps create movement, mood and direction.
Curved and flowing lines often convey softness, grace and calmness. Straight or vertical lines suggest strength and stability.
Diagonal lines create a sense of action and tension. Rough or broken lines may express unrest or conflict.
Through different types of lines, the artist guides the viewer's eye and sets the emotional tone of the artwork.

Step 2: Colour Colour strongly influences the emotional impact of a composition.
Warm colours such as red, orange and yellow create feelings of energy, passion or warmth. Cool colours such as blue and green evoke calmness, peace or sadness.
Bright colours may suggest joy and celebration. Dull or dark tones can express seriousness, mystery or sorrow.
The contrast and harmony of colours also help communicate the overall idea and mood.

Step 3: Shapes and forms Shapes and forms contribute to meaning and symbolism.
Rounded shapes often suggest comfort, harmony and unity. Sharp or angular shapes may express tension or aggression.
Large forms can indicate importance and dominance, whereas smaller forms may appear less significant.
The arrangement and balance of these shapes within the composition help to convey the artist's message clearly.

Step 4: Conclusion Line, colour and shapes or forms together express the emotions and ideas of a composition.

Quick Tip to Solve: Cover line, colour and shape or form separately, with an emotion for each.

9(i). Carefully observe the stone masterpiece.



Mention the title and the dynasty during which the sculpture was created. [1 mark]

Solution:

Concept:

- The picture shows four lions seated back to back on a round base, with a wheel, animals and an inverted lotus below.
- We must name it and give its dynasty.

Step 1: Title The title of the sculpture is the Lion Capital.

Step 2: Dynasty The sculpture was commissioned by Ashoka, the grandson of Chandragupta Maurya. So it belongs to the Maurya dynasty.
It is carved out of Chunar sandstone with a very intricate carving method.

Step 3: Conclusion The sculpture is the Lion Capital, made in the Maurya dynasty.

Quick Tip to Solve: Name the sculpture and the ruler who commissioned it.

9(ii). Name Five parts that the sculptor originally had. [1 mark]

Solution:

Concept:

- The Ashokan pillar was made of several parts.
- We must name five of the parts that the sculptor originally had.

Step 1: The five parts 1. Wheel (the Dharma chakra, which stood on top of the four lions).
2. Capital (the four lions seated back to back).
3. Abacus (the round drum with the wheel and animals carved on it).
4. Bell shaped vase covered with an inverted lotus.
5. Shaft (the tall pillar below the capital).

Step 2: Conclusion The five parts are wheel, capital, abacus, bell shaped vase with inverted lotus, and shaft.

Quick Tip to Solve: Go from the top of the pillar to the bottom.

9(iii). Explain the symbolic representation of the Lion capital. [4 marks]

Solution:

Concept:

- Every figure on the Lion Capital has a meaning.
- We must explain the symbols one by one.

Step 1: Lions and wheel Four Asiatic lions face the four cardinal directions. They spread dharma with courage.
The wheel has twenty-four spokes. These represent twenty-four virtues of life, that is, the 24 hours of the day.

Step 2: Animals on the abacus Elephant: divine knowledge.
Bull: the zodiac sign of the Buddha, and a symbol of strength.
Lion: courage and royalty.
Horse: royalty and the worldly desire which the Buddha left.

Step 3: Conclusion Each figure on the Lion Capital carries a meaning linked to dharma, knowledge, courage and renunciation.

Quick Tip to Solve: Explain the lions, the wheel and the four animals on the abacus.