

# CBSE Class 12 English Core

## Sample Paper – 3

Duration: 180 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 80

### General Instructions

- This question paper contains **13 questions**. All questions are **compulsory**.
- The paper is divided into **three sections**: **Section A** (Reading Skills – 22 marks), **Section B** (Creative Writing Skills – 18 marks) and **Section C** (Literature – 40 marks).
- Attempt all questions based on the specific instructions given for each part.
- Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
- **Adhere to the prescribed word limit** while answering the questions.
- There is **no overall choice**, but an **internal choice** has been provided in some questions. Attempt only one of the alternatives in such questions.
- Marks for each question/part are indicated against it in [ ].

### Section A – Reading Skills (22 Marks)

**Q1.** Read the following passage carefully.

[12]



1. Aarav had begged for this journey for months. He was thirteen now, old enough, he insisted, to travel the four hours to his grandmother's town by himself. When his mother finally agreed, she pinned a slip of paper with three phone numbers inside his shirt pocket and hugged him a moment longer than usual on the platform. The train slid in with a long sigh of brakes, and before he was quite ready, she was waving from behind a window that was already moving away.
2. For the first ten minutes he sat very straight, guarding his small bag as though the whole compartment were watching it. The seat opposite held an elderly man reading a newspaper and a young woman with a sketchbook. Nobody looked at Aarav at all, and slowly this indifference began to feel less like loneliness and more like a strange new freedom. He was, for the first time, simply a passenger among passengers, answerable to no one.
3. Outside, the city thinned into fields. Buffaloes stood knee-deep in flooded paddy, and a boy his own age raced the train along a mud path, arms pumping, until the engine pulled easily ahead. Aarav pressed his face to the glass and grinned. He bought a packet of biscuits from the vendor, counted his change twice, and felt absurdly proud of so small a transaction done entirely on his own.
4. Then the doubt arrived. At a crowded junction the train sat still for a long while, and an announcement crackled out words he could not catch. What if this was his station and he missed it? What if he had boarded the wrong train altogether? His certainty drained away, and he understood suddenly why his mother's hug had lasted so long. He took out the slip of paper, read the numbers, and put it back without calling anyone. He would wait. He would watch the signboards.
5. When the yellow board finally read the name he wanted, Aarav was already standing by the door, bag in hand. His grandmother was on the platform, smaller than he remembered, scanning the windows. He stepped down, and for a second before she saw him he was still that solitary traveller, capable and calm. Then she called his name, and he ran, a boy again, but a boy who had learned that he could be trusted with himself. (451 words)

**Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.**

- (i) Which detail in paragraph 1 shows that Aarav's mother was anxious about letting him travel alone? (1)
- (ii) In paragraph 2, the other passengers' "indifference" gradually makes Aarav feel a sense of \_\_\_\_\_ rather than loneliness. (1)
- (iii) The writer suggests all of the following about Aarav EXCEPT — (1)
  - A. that he wanted to prove he was grown up
  - B. that he felt proud of managing small tasks alone
  - C. that he regretted having insisted on the journey



- D. that he grew briefly frightened at the junction
- (iv) Why does Aarav feel “absurdly proud” of buying a packet of biscuits? Answer in about 40 words. (2)
- (v) Based on paragraph 3, state *one* way the writer conveys Aarav’s rising delight during the journey. (1)
- (vi) The word “crackled” in paragraph 4 (“an announcement crackled out”) is closest in meaning to: (1)
- A. A. came out clearly    B. came out in broken, unclear sounds    C. came out softly    D. came out in writing
- (vii) Why does Aarav read the phone numbers but decide not to call anyone? (1)
- (viii) How does the final paragraph mark a change in the way Aarav sees himself? Answer in about 40 words. (2)
- (ix) Complete the following with the most suitable option. The central idea of the passage is \_\_\_\_\_ . (1)
- A. the discomfort of long-distance train travel  
B. the way a small act of independence helps a child grow in self-trust  
C. the beauty of the countryside seen from a train  
D. the fear of getting lost while travelling
- (x) Just before his grandmother saw him, why did Aarav briefly feel “capable and calm”? (Any one reason) (1)

**Q2.** Read the following passage carefully.

**[10]**



1. Across many Indian households, the way families meet their everyday energy needs is quietly changing. A recent survey of 2,000 homes in a mix of towns and villages asked which renewable sources people had actually installed at home. The four options studied were rooftop solar panels, solar water heaters, small biogas plants and household wind units. The aim was to see how far clean energy has moved from talk into the ordinary routines of daily life.

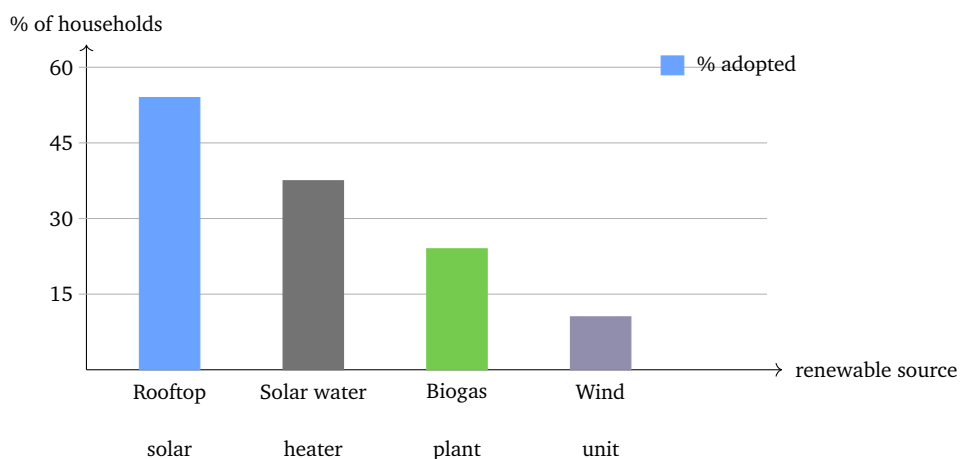
2. The findings were encouraging. Rooftop solar panels were by far the most widely adopted, chosen by families who wanted to cut rising electricity bills and were attracted by government subsidies. Solar water heaters came next, valued especially in colder regions for the steady savings on gas and power. Small biogas plants, though less common, were popular in rural homes that could feed them with kitchen and cattle waste and gain cooking gas in return.

3. Household wind units remained the least adopted. Respondents explained that small wind turbines need steady breezes, open space and more maintenance than a busy family can spare, so they suited only certain locations. Even so, a handful of coastal and hilltop homes reported using them happily alongside solar panels.

4. The survey also recorded honest difficulties. The upfront cost of installation still frightened many families, and some complained that repairs were slow because trained technicians were scarce in their area. A few had bought cheap equipment that failed within a year, which discouraged their neighbours from trying at all.

5. The message for planners is clear. Cleaner energy is no longer a distant dream in Indian homes, but wider adoption will depend on affordable financing, reliable after-sales service and honest information, so that a good idea is not spoiled by a bad first experience.

*(Created for academic usage / 268 words)*



**Answer the following questions, based on the given passage.**

- (i) What was the main aim of the survey described in the passage? (1)
- A. To rank Indian towns by their electricity bills



- B. To see how far clean energy has entered the daily routines of homes
- C. To compare the prices of different solar panels
- D. To measure the wind speed in coastal areas
- (ii) Fill in the blank with the correct option from those given in brackets. Rooftop solar was adopted most widely partly because families were attracted by government \_\_\_\_\_ (*loans / subsidies / advertisements*). (1)
- (iii) Based on the bar graph, which renewable source was adopted by the largest share of households? (1)
- (iv) Why were small biogas plants “especially popular in rural homes”? Answer in about 40 words. (2)
- (v) Complete the sentence with reference to the bar graph: The renewable source adopted by the smallest share of households is the \_\_\_\_\_ . (1)
- (vi) What does the passage suggest is the main reason household wind units remained the least adopted? (1)
- (vii) How, according to the passage, can planners encourage wider adoption of clean energy in homes? Answer in about 40 words. (2)
- (viii) Select the option that is NOT stated in the passage. (1)
- A. The upfront cost of installation frightened many families.
- B. Trained technicians were scarce in some areas.
- C. Wind units were the most widely adopted source overall.
- D. Cheap equipment sometimes failed within a year.

### Section B – Creative Writing Skills (18 Marks)

*All the names and addresses used in the questions are fictitious. Resemblance, if any, is purely coincidental.*

**Q3.** Attempt **any one** of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words. [4]

**(A)** You are Ishaan Kapoor, the Science Club Secretary of Vidya Bharti School, Bhopal. The school is holding a **Science Exhibition** in the school hall next month. Write a notice in about 50 words informing students of the event and inviting them to display their working models. Put your notice in a box.

**OR**



(B) You are Tara Menon, the Head Girl of Rosewood International School, Indore. The school is organising a **Cleanliness Drive** in the neighbourhood this Sunday. Write a notice in about 50 words informing senior students and inviting them to volunteer. Put your notice in a box.

**Q4.** Attempt **any one** of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words. [4]

(A) As the Secretary of the Alumni Committee of St. Xavier's School, Vadodara, draft a formal invitation to Dr. Neha Pillai, a distinguished alumna, requesting her to be the chief guest at the school's **Annual Alumni Meet**. Provide the essential details.

**OR**

(B) You are Dr. Neha Pillai. Write a formal reply in about 50 words accepting the invitation to be the chief guest at the Annual Alumni Meet of St. Xavier's School, Vadodara, and expressing your gratitude.

**Q5.** Attempt **any one** of the two, (A) or (B), in 120–150 words. [5]

(A) You are Kabir Sharma of 17, Green Park, Lucknow. Write a letter to the Editor of *The Northern Chronicle* drawing attention to the **need for well-stocked public libraries** in your city, and suggesting how they would benefit students and readers. Use the cues below along with your own ideas.

- too few libraries for a growing city
- value for students without home resources
- quiet spaces for reading and study
- role of the municipal authorities

**OR**

(B) You are Ananya Ghosh of 5, Palm Avenue, Kolkata. You wish to join a **certificate course in Spoken English and Communication** at an institute. Write an enquiry letter to the Director asking about the details before you apply.



**Skylight Institute of Communication**

Now enrolling for the **Certificate Course in Spoken English & Communication**. Small batches. Experienced trainers.

For details of **fees, duration, timings and certification**, contact: The Director, Skylight Institute of Communication, 9 Circus Road, Kolkata.

**Q6.** Attempt **any one** of the two, (A) or (B), in 120–150 words. [5]

**(A)** Many students waste precious hours and then regret it before examinations. You are Rehan Ali. Write an article for your school magazine titled “**The Value of Time**”, discussing why time must be used wisely and how students can manage it. Use the cues below along with your own ideas.

- time is limited and never returns
- cost of wasting it
- benefits of planning and routine
- small daily habits that help

**OR**

**(B)** Your school recently held its annual **Cultural Fest** with music, dance and drama. As the Cultural Secretary, Meher Joshi, write a report for the school magazine describing the event. Use the cues below along with your own ideas.

- occasion and organisation
- programmes and performances
- chief guest and audience response
- overall outcome

**Section C – Literature (40 Marks)**

*Prescribed texts: Flamingo and Vistas.*

**Q7.** Read the following extract and solve **ANY ONE** of the given two, (A) or (B). [6]

**(A)**

*The polished traffic passed with a mind ahead,  
Or if ever aside a moment, then out of sorts*



*At having the landscape marred with the artless paint  
Of signs that with N turned wrong and S turned wrong  
Offered for sale wild berries in wooden quarts,  
Or crook-necked golden squash with silver warts . . . (A Roadside  
Stand)*

- (i) Whose traffic is described as “polished”, and what does the word suggest? (1)
- (ii) Why are the city travellers described as being “out of sorts”? (1)
- (iii) Complete the following suitably: The reversed letters “N turned wrong and S turned wrong” point to the roadside people’s \_\_\_\_\_ . (1)
- (iv) What is being “offered for sale” at the roadside stand? (1)
- (v) The attitude of the city people towards the country folk is best described as \_\_\_\_\_ (*sympathetic / indifferent / admiring*). (1)
- (vi) Identify one poetic device used in the extract, with an example. (1)

**OR**

**(B)**

*And when we were not busy, we would suddenly  
have something to do,  
perhaps a huge silence  
might interrupt this sadness  
of never understanding ourselves  
and of threatening ourselves with death. (Keeping Quiet)*

- (i) What does the poet mean by “a huge silence”? (1)
- (ii) How, according to the poet, might this silence “interrupt this sadness”? (1)
- (iii) Complete the following: The phrase “never understanding ourselves” points to humanity’s lack of \_\_\_\_\_. (1)
- (iv) Why does the poet say we are “threatening ourselves with death”? (1)
- (v) The poet’s overall attitude in these lines is \_\_\_\_\_ (*despairing / hopeful / angry*). (1)
- (vi) Identify the tone of the extract. (1)



**Q8.** Read the following extract and solve **ANY ONE** of the given two, (A) or (B). [4]

**(A)**

*And now he had to keep the man alive. . . . “But certainly I do not want this man to live,” he said. “Then why not let him die?” Hana asked. “If I let him die,” Sadao said, “I would be caught and punished.”* (The Enemy)

- (i) Who is the “man” that Sadao must keep alive? (1)
- (ii) Complete the sentence suitably: Sadao’s words reveal a conflict between his duty as a doctor and his \_\_\_\_\_ . (1)
- (iii) Why does Sadao say he cannot simply let the man die? (1)
- (iv) Sadao’s decision to save the soldier is best explained by his \_\_\_\_\_ (*professional conscience / love of the enemy / fear of Hana*). (1)

**OR**

**(B)**

*We man[a]ged to save some little money in our small savings box. . . . “It is dangerous to go out in the streets, but the mob has gone now. Do not be afraid.” . . . I did not understand the reason then, but I understood it later.* (The Memories of Childhood)

- (i) In which part of the chapter does the fear of “the mob” appear? (1)
- (ii) Complete the sentence: The narrator says she “understood it later”, which shows the wisdom that comes with \_\_\_\_\_ . (1)
- (iii) What social reality does the chapter mainly expose? (1)
- (iv) The two accounts in this chapter share the theme of \_\_\_\_\_ (*marginalisation and discrimination / childhood games / wealth and comfort*). (1)

**Q9.** Read the following extract and solve **ANY ONE** of the given two, (A) or (B). [6]

**(A)**



*The peasants had gathered to see Gandhi . . . . This gave me a new insight. Civil disobedience had triumphed for the first time in modern India. . . . “What I did was a very ordinary thing. I declared that the British could not order me about in my own country.”*  
(Indigo)

- (i) Why had the peasants “gathered to see Gandhi”? (1)
- (ii) Complete the sentence suitably: Gandhi calls his act “a very ordinary thing”, which shows his \_\_\_\_\_ . (1)
- (iii) What was the “new insight” the narrator gained? (1)
- (iv) Why is this event described as a triumph of “civil disobedience”? (1)
- (v) The extract mainly highlights the theme of \_\_\_\_\_ (*self-reliance and standing up to injustice / farming techniques / personal ambition*). (1)
- (vi) Identify the quality of Gandhi’s leadership shown in the last sentence. (1)

**OR**

**(B)**

*The makeup department was first headed by a Bengali . . . The department was a fine example of national integration . . . people from all over India worked there. . . . The most fascinating thing about the department was the way in which they applied makeup with those simple materials.*  
(Poets and Pancakes)

- (i) Why does the writer call the makeup department “a fine example of national integration”? (1)
- (ii) Complete the sentence suitably: The name “Pancakes” in the title refers to the brand of \_\_\_\_\_ . (1)
- (iii) What tone does the writer adopt while describing Gemini Studios? (1)
- (iv) Why does the writer find the department “fascinating”? (1)
- (v) The extract mainly reflects the theme of \_\_\_\_\_ (*diversity working together / rivalry among artists / the glamour of cinema*). (1)
- (vi) Identify the figure of speech in describing many communities working as one team. (1)



**Q10.** Answer **any five** of the following six questions in 40–50 words each.

**[5×2=10]**

- (i) Why did Franz dread going to school on the morning of the last lesson, and how did his feelings change? *(The Last Lesson)* (2)
- (ii) How does the peddler’s view of the world as a “rattrap” finally change in the story? *(The Rattrap)* (2)
- (iii) What does Neruda mean when he says that “keeping quiet” need not be confused with total inactivity? *(Keeping Quiet)* (2)
- (iv) How does the poet in *My Mother at Sixty-six* use the parting smile to end the poem? (2)
- (v) Why is Sophie’s world of dreams so different from the reality of her family’s life? *(Going Places)* (2)
- (vi) What lesson about fear did Douglas learn from his experience at the swimming pool? *(Deep Water)* (2)

**Q11.** Answer **any two** of the following three questions in 40–50 words each.

**[2×2=4]**

- (i) How does Mr. Lamb help Derry overcome his sense of being an outsider in *On the Face of It*? (2)
- (ii) What does Antarctica teach the students about the past and future of our planet in *Journey to the End of the Earth*? (2)
- (iii) How does Dr. Sadao’s family and household react to his decision to shelter the enemy soldier in *The Enemy*? (2)

**Q12.** Answer **any one** of the following two questions in about 120–150 words.

**[5]**

**(A)** In *Lost Spring*, Anees Jung shows how poverty robs children of their childhood. Discuss how the lives of Saheb and Mukesh illustrate this loss.

**OR**

**(B)** Douglas’s *Deep Water* is finally a story of triumph over fear. Discuss how his experience teaches us that fear can be conquered by determined effort.



**Q13.** Answer **any one** of the following two questions in about 120–150 words.  
[5]

(A) *The Tiger King* is a biting satire on the vanity and irresponsibility of those who hold power. Justify this statement with reference to the story.

**OR**

(B) *The Memories of Childhood* shows how the young narrators become aware of the injustice of marginalisation. Discuss with reference to both accounts.



**Model Answers & Marking Scheme**

The answers below are indicative. Credit should be given to any other valid, well-expressed response. In writing tasks, marks are for format, content, and expression.

**Q1.****Model Answer****Section A — Passage 1 (Reading).**

- (i) She pinned a slip with three phone numbers inside his shirt pocket and hugged him “a moment longer than usual”, showing her anxiety. (1)
- (ii) A sense of **freedom** (a strange new independence). (1)
- (iii) **C** — that he regretted having insisted on the journey. (He had begged for it and felt proud, not regretful.) (1)
- (iv) It was the first ordinary task—buying biscuits and counting his change—that he had managed entirely on his own, so the small success made him feel independent and grown up, and therefore “absurdly” proud. (2)
- (v) Any one: he presses his face to the glass and grins; he races a boy along a mud path in his mind; he feels “absurdly proud”; the lively countryside imagery. (1)
- (vi) **B** — came out in broken, unclear sounds. (1)
- (vii) He decides to trust himself and wait, watching the signboards, instead of depending on the numbers; he wants to manage the difficulty on his own. (1)
- (viii) He stops seeing himself as a child needing his mother and realises he can be “trusted with himself”; though he runs to his grandmother as a boy again, he has gained new self-confidence and maturity. (2)
- (ix) **B** — the way a small act of independence helps a child grow in self-trust. (1)
- (x) Any one: he had found his station on his own; he had handled his fear at the junction; he had completed the whole journey alone. (1)

[Go Back to Q1](#)

Q2.

**Model Answer****Section A — Passage 2 (Reading).**

- (i) **B** — to see how far clean energy has entered the daily routines of homes. (1)
- (ii) **subsidies**. (1)
- (iii) **Rooftop solar panels** (the tallest bar). (1)
- (iv) Rural homes could easily feed a biogas plant with the kitchen and cattle waste they already produced, and in return they gained free cooking gas, so the plant suited their circumstances and saved money. (2)
- (v) **Wind unit** (household wind unit — the shortest bar). (1)
- (vi) Small wind turbines need steady breezes, open space and more maintenance than a busy family can spare, so they suit only certain locations. (1)
- (vii) Planners should offer affordable financing, ensure reliable after-sales service with trained technicians, and provide honest information, so that a good idea is not spoiled by a bad first experience. (2)
- (viii) **C** — Wind units were the most widely adopted source overall (the passage says they were the *least* adopted). (1)

[Go Back to Q2](#)

Q3.

**Model Answer**

**Section B — Notice (any one).** *Format (4): box + name of issuing body + “NOTICE” + date + heading + body (what/when/where/whom) + signature, name, designation.*

**(A) Science Exhibition — indicative answer:**



## VIDYA BHARTI SCHOOL, BHOPAL

## NOTICE

2 July 20XX

**Science Exhibition**

The Science Club is organising a Science Exhibition in the school hall on Saturday, 9 August, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Students of all classes are invited to display their working models and projects.

Interested students may register with the undersigned by 30 July.

Ishaan Kapoor  
Science Club Secretary

Marks: format 1, content 2, expression 1. (4) [Go Back to Q3](#)

Q4.

**Model Answer****Section B — Formal Invitation / Reply (any one).**

**(A) Invitation — indicative:** The Alumni Committee of St. Xavier's School, Vadodara, cordially invites Dr. Neha Pillai to grace the Annual Alumni Meet as chief guest on Saturday, 16 August 20XX, at 5 p.m. in the school auditorium. Your presence would inspire both old students and current pupils. (*RSVP with name/designation.*)

**(B) Reply — indicative:** Dr. Neha Pillai thanks the Alumni Committee of St. Xavier's School, Vadodara, for its kind invitation and is delighted to accept the role of chief guest at the Annual Alumni Meet on 16 August. She looks forward to reconnecting with her alma mater.

Marks: format 1, content 2, expression 1. (4) [Go Back to Q4](#)

Q5.

**Model Answer**

**Section B — Letter (any one).** *Format (1): sender's address, date, receiver, subject, salutation, body, complimentary close.*

**(A) Letter to Editor (public libraries) — key content:** draw attention to the shortage of public libraries in a growing city; their value for students who lack books and resources at home; the need for quiet spaces for reading and study; urge the municipal authorities to build and stock more libraries and keep them open at convenient hours.

**(B) Enquiry Letter (certificate course) — key content:** state interest in the Cer-



tificate Course in Spoken English & Communication and the source of the information; politely ask for details of fees, duration, class timings, batch size and mode of certification; ask about eligibility and how to apply; request an early reply.

Marks: format 1, content 2, expression 2. (5) [Go Back to Q5](#)

Q6.

### Model Answer

**Section B — Article / Report (any one).**

**(A) Article “The Value of Time” — key content:** title + by-line; time is limited and, once lost, never returns; wasting it brings regret, stress and missed chances; a planned routine and clear priorities help; small daily habits—fixed study hours, avoiding distractions, punctuality—make good use of every day.

**(B) Report “Cultural Fest” — key content:** title + by-line/reporter; the occasion and who organised it; a lively programme of music, dance and drama; the chief guest’s presence and the audience’s warm response; prizes given; a colourful, well-managed and memorable event.

Marks: format 1, content 2, expression 2. (5) [Go Back to Q6](#)

Q7.

### Model Answer

**Section C — Poetry extract (any one).**

**(A) A Roadside Stand:**

- (i) The traffic of the wealthy city people; “polished” suggests their smart cars and their well-off, self-absorbed lives. (1)
- (ii) They are irritated because the crude, hand-painted roadside signs spoil (“mar”) the beauty of the landscape they wish to enjoy. (1)
- (iii) ... lack of education / their simple, untrained ways. (1)
- (iv) Fresh country produce—wild berries in wooden quarts and crook-necked golden squash. (1)
- (v) **indifferent.** (1)
- (vi) Imagery — “crook-necked golden squash with silver warts” (also alliteration in “silver ... squash”; “polished traffic” is transferred epithet). (1)



**(B) Keeping Quiet:** (i) a shared, meaningful pause when all humanity stops its noisy activity (1); (ii) the sudden calm would break the routine of restless, harmful action and let us reflect (1); (iii) ... self-awareness / introspection (1); (iv) our wars, cruelty and destructive haste push us towards our own ruin (1); (v) **hopeful** (1); (vi) reflective, gentle and persuasive (1). [Go Back to Q7](#)

Q8.

### Model Answer

**Section C — Vistas extract (any one).**

**(A) The Enemy:** (i) the wounded American prisoner of war washed up near Sadao's house (1); (ii) ... patriotism / loyalty to his country (1); (iii) if the man is found dead in his care he would be caught and punished (1); (iv) **professional conscience** (1).

**(B) The Memories of Childhood:** (i) in Zitkala-Sa's / Bama's account of childhood (1); (ii) ... age and experience / growing up (1); (iii) the cruelty of caste and racial discrimination against the powerless (1); (iv) **marginalisation and discrimination** (1). [Go Back to Q8](#)

Q9.

### Model Answer

**Section C — Flamingo extract (any one).**

**(A) Indigo:** (i) they came to support Gandhi and see the leader who dared to defy the British (1); (ii) ... humility / modesty (1); (iii) that ordinary people, once fearless, could challenge British authority (1); (iv) because peaceful, lawful defiance forced the authorities to back down for the first time (1); (v) **self-reliance and standing up to injustice** (1); (vi) courage combined with humility (1).

**(B) Poets and Pancakes:** (i) because people from many regions and communities of India worked there together in harmony (1); (ii) ... make-up material used at the studios (1); (iii) gently humorous / ironic (1); (iv) because they created striking effects using very simple materials (1); (v) **diversity working together** (1); (vi) it is an example of national integration (metaphor for unity in diversity) (1). [Go Back to Q9](#)

Q10.

### Model Answer

**Section C — Short answers (any five; 2 marks each).**



- (i) Franz dreaded school because he had not learned his lesson on participles and feared M. Hamel's scolding. On learning it was the last French lesson, his dread turned to sorrow and regret, and he suddenly wished he had studied.
- (ii) At first the peddler sees the world as a rattrap that lures and traps everyone with riches. Edla's kindness makes him feel human dignity again; he returns the stolen money and leaves as a changed man, "Captain von Stahle".
- (iii) Neruda clarifies that his stillness is not lifelessness or death; it is a reflective pause. Under an apparent silence, life continues, but the mad rush of harmful activity halts long enough for humanity to understand itself.
- (iv) The poem ends with the poet putting on a familiar smile and saying only "see you soon". The forced, brave smile hides her deep pain and fear of losing her ageing mother, ending the poem on a note of restrained grief.
- (v) Sophie invents a glamorous future—owning a boutique, becoming an actress, meeting Danny Casey—because her poor, dull working-class life offers her nothing exciting. Her dreams are an escape from a reality she cannot change.
- (vi) Douglas learned that fear itself is the real enemy. By facing water step by step and finally swimming across Lake Wentworth, he proved that "there is terror only in the fear of death", and that fear is conquered by confronting it.

(Any five  $\times$  2 = 10) [Go Back to Q10](#)

Q11.

### Model Answer

**Section C — Vistas short answers (any two; 2 marks each).**

- (i) Mr. Lamb welcomes Derry into his garden without pity, talks to him as an equal, and shows that everyone bears some scar. He teaches Derry to value his mind and to face the world instead of hiding, lifting his sense of being an outsider.
- (ii) Antarctica, once part of Gondwana, holds a record of Earth's deep past in its ice, and its fragile ecosystems warn of the future. Students realise how small human actions can trigger huge environmental change, and how urgent it is to act.
- (iii) Hana is frightened but helps her husband; the servants disapprove of shel-



tering an enemy and eventually leave the house in protest. The household is torn between loyalty to country and Sadao's humane decision to save the wounded soldier.

(Any two  $\times 2 = 4$ ) [Go Back to Q11](#)

Q12.

### Model Answer

**Section C — Long answer, Flamingo (any one; 5 marks).**

**(A) Lost Spring:** Anees Jung shows poverty stealing childhood. Saheb, whose name means “ruler of the earth”, is a barefoot ragpicker in Seemapuri; he loses even his little freedom when he takes a job at a tea stall. Mukesh, born into Firozabad's glass-bangle families, is trapped in dark, dangerous furnaces and a caste-bound trade, yet dares to dream of being a motor mechanic. Both boys are denied schooling, play and choice by the grinding cycle of poverty and tradition. Their stolen childhoods expose how millions of Indian children are robbed of hope. (Value points: Saheb's story; Mukesh's story; causes—poverty, tradition; loss of childhood; a flicker of dreams. Content 3, expression 2.)

**(B) Deep Water:** A childhood ducking left Douglas with a paralysing terror of water that haunted him for years. He shows that unfaced fear can cripple a life. Through patient practice with an instructor and, finally, alone at Lake Wentworth, he confronts and defeats his fear. The larger lesson—“All we have to fear is fear itself”—is that fear is conquered not by avoidance but by determined, courageous effort. (Content 3, expression 2.) [Go Back to Q12](#)

Q13.

### Model Answer

**Section C — Long answer, Vistas (any one; 5 marks).**

**(A) The Tiger King:** Kalki mocks the Maharaja's vanity and misuse of power. To defy a prophecy that the hundredth tiger would kill him, the King slaughters ninety-nine tigers, bans others from hunting, doubles a village's taxes and even threatens officials over his whims. He marries only to find more tigers to kill. Ironically, a cheap wooden toy tiger causes his death. Through this absurd tale the writer satirises the arrogance, selfishness and irresponsibility of autocratic rulers who put pride above the welfare of their people. (Content 3, expression 2.)

**(B) The Memories of Childhood:** Both narrators awaken to the injustice of marginalisation. Zitkala-Sa suffers the humiliation of having her long hair forcibly cut at a rigid, culturally hostile school, feeling reduced to an object. Bama watches



an elder carry a food packet by its string to avoid “polluting” an upper-caste man, and slowly grasps the cruelty of untouchability. Their childhood memories reveal how discrimination by race and caste wounds the powerless—and how such awareness can spark quiet resistance. (*Content 3, expression 2.*) [Go Back to Q13](#)

