

# CBSE Class 12 English Core

## Sample Paper – 8

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. The rain had not stopped since morning, and by the time Ravi reached the little grocery at the corner of Nehru Lane, his umbrella had surrendered and his mood had soured completely. He had lost an important client that afternoon, missed his bus twice, and now stood dripping before a shopkeeper he had never once bothered to notice in the three years he had lived on that street.

2. The shop was small and warm, its shelves crowded with tins and jars that seemed to lean towards one another like old friends. Behind the counter sat Mr. Iyer, a thin man with grey stubble and spectacles mended at one hinge with tape. Ravi bought a packet of tea, some biscuits and a candle for the power cuts, paid with a crumpled five-hundred-rupee note, took his change without counting it, and hurried back out into the rain.

3. He had walked barely half the lane when he heard someone calling. Turning, he saw Mr. Iyer hurrying after him without an umbrella, one hand shielding his glasses from the downpour and the other clutching a few notes. "Sir," the old man panted, "the tea was already on discount, and in my haste I returned you less than I owed." He pressed the extra money into Ravi's palm, apologised for the trouble, and turned to go before Ravi could even reply.

4. For a moment Ravi simply stood there, the coins cold and wet in his hand. It was a trifling sum, hardly forty rupees, and no one in the world would ever have known. The old man could have kept it; Ravi had not even checked. Yet here he was, soaked to the skin, having run down a flooded street to set right a small mistake that troubled his conscience. Something in Ravi's chest loosened, as though a knot he had been carrying all day had quietly come undone.

5. He walked home slowly after that, no longer minding the rain. The lost client, the missed buses, the grey afternoon, all of it seemed smaller now, dwarfed by the memory of an honest man running through a storm over forty rupees. That evening, by the light of his new candle, Ravi found himself smiling for the first time in days. He had gone out to buy tea; he had come back with something he had not expected to find, a quiet reminder that plain decency still lived at the corner of an ordinary street. (441 words)

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

- (i) Which detail in paragraph 1 tells us that Ravi had already had a difficult day before he reached the shop? (1)
- (ii) Complete the following suitably: The writer compares the crowded shelves to \_\_\_\_\_ in order to suggest that the little shop felt \_\_\_\_\_. (1)
- (iii) The passage suggests all of the following about Mr. Iyer EXCEPT — (1)
- A. that he was scrupulously honest
- B. that he was willing to take trouble for a stranger



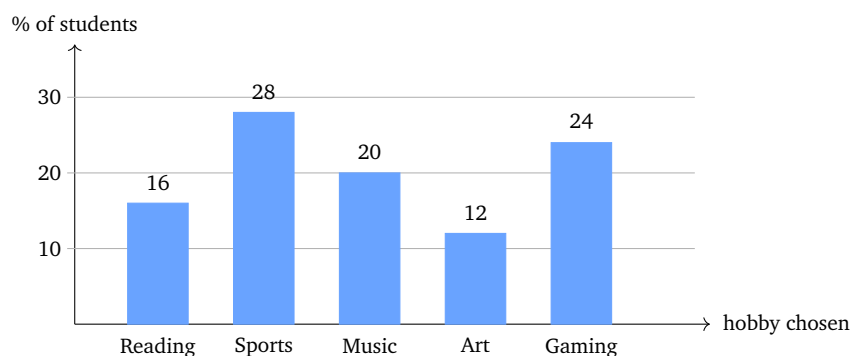
- C. that he was a wealthy and successful trader  
D. that he ran a small, modest shop
- (iv) Why does the writer say that “a knot he had been carrying all day had quietly come undone”? Answer in about 40 words. (2)
- (v) Based on paragraph 3, state *one* detail that shows Mr. Iyer went to real trouble to return the money. (1)
- (vi) The word “trifling” in paragraph 4 (“a trifling sum”) is closest in meaning to: (1)  
A. troubling B. generous C. mysterious D. insignificant
- (vii) What does Ravi’s habit of taking “his change without counting it” reveal about his state of mind that day? (1)
- (viii) How does the encounter with Mr. Iyer change Ravi’s mood by the end of the passage? 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 walking home in the rain  
B. the way a small act of honesty can transform someone’s outlook  
C. the struggle of running a small grocery shop  
D. the importance of always counting one’s change
- (x) Why did the memory of the old man make Ravi smile that evening? (Any one reason) (1)

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

**[10]**



1. A survey conducted across a cluster of city schools asked 1,200 senior-school students to name the one hobby they enjoyed most in their free time. The responses were sorted into five broad categories — reading, sports, music, art and gaming — and the results were plotted in the bar graph shown below. The aim was to understand how young people spend their leisure and what schools might do to encourage healthier interests.
2. Sports emerged as the most popular pursuit, chosen by the largest share of students, who spoke of the joy of playing outdoors and the friendships formed on the field. Gaming followed close behind, a reminder of how firmly digital entertainment has entered teenage life. Music and reading occupied the middle ground, while art, though the least chosen, had a small but devoted following.
3. The organisers noticed a few interesting patterns. Students who preferred reading and art often described their hobby as calming and private, something they did alone. Those drawn to sports and gaming valued the excitement and, in different ways, the sense of competition. Many admitted that their choice was shaped as much by the facilities available to them as by genuine liking.
4. There were concerns too. A number of students confessed that gaming had begun to eat into their study hours, and a few wished they had more time and space for outdoor games. Teachers felt that the low interest in art and reading pointed to habits worth nurturing early.
5. The survey ends on a practical note: schools that offer a wide mix of activities — playing fields, reading corners, music rooms and art studios — give every student a fair chance to discover an interest that truly suits them. *(Created for academic usage / 287 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 the city schools by the size of their sports grounds
  - B. To understand how students spend their leisure and how schools might support them
  - C. To find out which hobby is the most expensive to pursue



- D. To measure how many hours students spend studying
- (ii) Fill in the blank with the correct option from those given in brackets. Many students admitted that their choice of hobby was shaped by the \_\_\_\_\_ available to them (*prizes / facilities / teachers*). (1)
- (iii) Based on the bar graph, which hobby was chosen by the largest share of students? (1)
- (iv) Why does the passage describe gaming as a matter of some concern despite its popularity? Answer in about 40 words. (2)
- (v) Based on the bar graph, which hobby had the smallest share of students? (1)
- (vi) What common quality did students who preferred reading and art associate with their hobby? (1)
- (vii) What practical suggestion does the survey make to schools at the end of the passage? Answer in about 40 words. (2)
- (viii) Select the option that is NOT stated in the passage. (1)
- A. Sports was the most popular hobby among the students surveyed.  
B. Gaming had begun to eat into some students' study hours.  
C. Art had the largest and most devoted following of all hobbies.  
D. Some students described reading as a calming activity.

### 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 Cultural Secretary of Rosewood Public School, Indore. The school is hosting an **Inter-school Music Competition** in the school auditorium next month. Write a notice in about 50 words informing students and inviting them to register their names. Put your notice in a box.

**OR**

**(B)** You are Tara Bhatt, the Head Girl of St. Xavier's Senior Secondary School, Ranchi. In association with the district health department, the school is organising a **Vaccination Camp** for students and staff. Write a



notice in about 50 words informing them and inviting them to register. Put your notice in a box.

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

(A) As the Head Boy of Mount Carmel School, Bhopal, draft a formal invitation to Dr. Anil Deshmukh, a respected educationist, requesting him to be the chief guest at the school's **Investiture Ceremony**. Provide the essential details.

**OR**

(B) You are Dr. Anil Deshmukh. Write a formal reply in about 50 words accepting the invitation to be the chief guest at the Investiture Ceremony of Mount Carmel School and expressing your gratitude.

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

(A) You are Nikita Sharma of 45, Gandhi Nagar, Lucknow. Write a letter to the Editor of *The Northern Chronicle* drawing attention to the growing problem of **pollution caused by uncollected garbage** in your locality, and suggesting measures to solve it. Use the cues below along with your own ideas.

- overflowing bins and foul smell
- health risks to residents
- irregular collection by the municipality
- need for awareness and regular disposal

**OR**

(B) You are Karan Malhotra of 12-C, Sunflower Apartments, Pune. You ordered a wireless headphone online, but received a **defective and wrong product**. Write a letter of complaint to the seller, *ShopEase Online*, asking for a replacement or refund. Use the cues below along with your own ideas.

- order number and date of delivery
- wrong model delivered, also faulty
- inconvenience caused



- request for prompt replacement or refund

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

(A) A well-ordered daily routine helps a student make the most of school life. You are Aditya Raina. Write an article for your school magazine titled “**The Value of Discipline in Student Life**”, explaining why discipline matters and how it can be built. Use the cues below along with your own ideas.

- meaning of discipline
- benefits for studies and health
- self-control and time management
- small daily habits that help

**OR**

(B) Your school recently held its **Annual Function** in the school auditorium. As the Cultural Secretary, Priya Menon, write a report for the school magazine describing the event. Use the cues below along with your own ideas.

- date, venue and chief guest
- cultural programme and prize distribution
- student participation
- overall response of the audience

### 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)

*Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing  
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,  
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth  
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,  
Of all the unhealthy and o’er-darkened ways  
Made for our searching:*

(A Thing of Beauty)



- (i) What does the poet mean by “a flowery band to bind us to the earth”? (1)
- (ii) Complete the following suitably: Despite the “inhuman dearth of noble natures”, beauty still gives us a reason to \_\_\_\_\_. (1)
- (iii) Name *one* of the “gloomy” things the poet lists that beauty helps us endure. (1)
- (iv) The phrase “on every morrow” suggests that our search for beauty is \_\_\_\_\_ (*occasional / daily and continual / hopeless*). (1)
- (v) How does beauty help us cope with “despondence”? (1)
- (vi) Identify *one* poetic device used in the extract, with an example. (1)

**OR**

**(B)**

*Fishermen in the cold sea  
would not harm whales  
and the man gathering salt  
would look at his hurt hands.*

*Those who prepare green wars,  
wars with gas, wars with fire,  
victory with no survivors,  
would put on clean clothes.*

*(Keeping Quiet)*

- (i) What does the poet hope the fishermen and the salt-gatherer will do during the moment of stillness? (1)
- (ii) What are the “green wars” the poet refers to? (1)
- (iii) Complete the following: The image of soldiers putting on “clean clothes” symbolises a turn towards \_\_\_\_\_. (1)
- (iv) “Victory with no survivors” is the poet’s warning against \_\_\_\_\_ (*honest work / the total destruction of war / peace*). (1)
- (v) What change in human behaviour does the poet hope his moment of silence will bring? (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)**

*“The best possible thing would be to put him back in the sea,” Sadao said. But neither of them moved. . . . “If we sheltered a white man in our house we should be arrested,” Hana said, “and if we turned him over as a prisoner, he would certainly die.” (The Enemy)*

- (i) Why does Sadao suggest putting the wounded man “back in the sea”? (1)
- (ii) Complete the sentence suitably: What holds Sadao and Hana back from acting is the fear of \_\_\_\_\_ . (1)
- (iii) What conflict does their hesitation reveal? (1)
- (iv) The man they have found on the shore is best described as \_\_\_\_\_ (a family friend / a wounded enemy soldier / a household servant). (1)

**OR****(B)**

*MR LAMB: So you’ve got a burned face, that’s all.*

*DERRY: That’s not all. People are afraid of me. . . . Everyone that sees me is afraid.*

*MR LAMB: Yes, well, people are afraid of everything. (On the Face of It)*

- (i) What does Mr. Lamb mean when he dismisses the burned face with “that’s all”? (1)
- (ii) Why does Derry insist “that’s not all”? (1)
- (iii) Complete the sentence: Mr. Lamb’s remark that people are “afraid of everything” is meant to make Derry see his fear as \_\_\_\_\_ . (1)
- (iv) The attitude Mr. Lamb tries to pass on to Derry is one of \_\_\_\_\_ (self-pity / acceptance and courage / anger). (1)

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

**(A)**

*The make-up room of the Gemini Studios was at the top of a building that was said to have been Robert Clive's stables. . . . A strange fraternity of men worked there, and they could turn any decent-looking person into a hideous crimson-hued monster with the help of truck-loads of pancake and a number of locally made lotions and potions.* (Poets and Pancakes)

- (i) What was "pancake", and how was it used at Gemini Studios? (1)
- (ii) Complete the sentence suitably: The make-up room was housed at the top of a building once said to have been \_\_\_\_\_ . (1)
- (iii) Why does the author call the make-up men "a strange fraternity"? (1)
- (iv) The phrase "hideous crimson-hued monster" is an example of \_\_\_\_\_ (*understatement / exaggeration for humour / a simile*). (1)
- (v) What is the author's tone in describing the make-up department? (1)
- (vi) Name the studio the passage describes. (1)

**OR**

**(B)**

*Then he would ask questions and, on the basis of the answers, would write out the entire interview. . . . Interviewing is an art, and yet many celebrities look upon the interview as an "unwarranted intrusion into their lives". Some see it as a source of "distortion" of their real selves.* (The Interview)

- (i) Why do some celebrities dislike being interviewed? (1)
- (ii) Complete the sentence suitably: The passage describes interviewing as \_\_\_\_\_. (1)
- (iii) What do celebrities mean by calling an interview a "distortion" of their selves? (1)
- (iv) The interview, according to the passage, is best seen as \_\_\_\_\_ (*a useless exercise / a powerful modern medium / a private conversation*). (1)
- (v) Why might an interview feel like an "intrusion" to a celebrity? (1)
- (vi) Identify the tone of the passage towards interviews. (1)



- Q10.** Answer **any five** of the following six questions in 40–50 words each.  
**[5×2=10]**
- (i) What details show that the bangle makers of Firozabad are trapped in a vicious circle of poverty? *(Lost Spring)* (2)
  - (ii) How did Gandhi help the peasants of Champaran win justice from the landlords? *(Indigo)* (2)
  - (iii) According to the author, what made the make-up department of Gemini Studios seem so unusual? *(Poets and Pancakes)* (2)
  - (iv) How does Neruda use the example of the Earth to explain the kind of stillness he wants in *Keeping Quiet*? (2)
  - (v) Name any three “things of beauty” that Keats mentions in *A Thing of Beauty*, and say why they matter to us. (2)
  - (vi) What kind of world did Sophie dream of, and how did it differ from her real life in *Going Places*? (2)
- Q11.** Answer **any two** of the following three questions in 40–50 words each.  
**[2×2=4]**
- (i) How does the Maharaja manage to kill the first ninety-nine tigers, and why does the hundredth prove so difficult? *(The Tiger King)* (2)
  - (ii) Why does the General decide that Dr. Sadao is too valuable to be arrested? *(The Enemy)* (2)
  - (iii) What does Geoff Green hope to achieve by taking young students to Antarctica in *Journey to the End of the Earth*? (2)
- Q12.** Answer **any one** of the following two questions in about 120–150 words.  
**[5]**
- (A)** *Poets and Pancakes* uses gentle humour to paint a lively picture of the world of films. Discuss how Asokamitran’s account of Gemini Studios blends comedy with keen observation.
- OR**
- (B)** In *Going Places*, Sophie’s habit of daydreaming keeps clashing with the plain facts of her life. Discuss how the story explores the gap between adolescent fantasy and reality.



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

(A) *On the Face of It* suggests that true disability lies not in a scarred face but in a scarred outlook on life. Discuss with reference to Derry and Mr. Lamb.

**OR**

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



**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) Any one: he had lost an important client that afternoon; he had missed his bus twice; his umbrella had “surrendered” and his mood “had soured completely”. (1)
- (ii) The shelves are compared to “**old friends**” (leaning towards one another), suggesting the shop felt **warm, cosy and welcoming**. (1)
- (iii) **C** — that he was a wealthy and successful trader. (The text describes a thin man in a small, modest shop with mended spectacles.) (1)
- (iv) The old man’s honesty over a trifling sum eases the frustration Ravi had been carrying all day; the small kindness relieves his inner tension and lifts the weight of his disappointments, so the “knot” of stress loosens. (2)
- (v) Any one: Mr. Iyer ran after Ravi “without an umbrella”; he came out into the “downpour”; he was “panting” as he shielded his glasses from the rain. (1)
- (vi) **D** — insignificant. (1)
- (vii) It shows he was distracted, tired and dispirited—too preoccupied with his troubles to attend to small everyday details. (1)
- (viii) The old man’s honesty makes Ravi’s own worries seem small; his sourness lifts, he stops minding the rain, walks home slowly and, by evening, finds himself smiling for the first time in days. (2)
- (ix) **B** — the way a small act of honesty can transform someone’s outlook. (1)
- (x) Any one: he was moved by the old man’s honesty; his own troubles seemed smaller; he was reminded that decency still exists. (1)

[Go Back to Q1](#)

Q2.

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

- (i) **B** — to understand how students spend their leisure and how schools might support them. (1)
- (ii) **facilities**. (1)
- (iii) **Sports** (the tallest bar, at 28%). (1)
- (iv) Although gaming is very popular, students admitted it had begun to eat into their study hours; its pull as digital entertainment is so strong that it crowds out school work, which worries teachers and students alike. (2)
- (v) **Art** (the shortest bar, at 12%). (1)
- (vi) They described it as calming and private—something quiet that they did alone. (1)
- (vii) Schools should offer a wide mix of activities—playing fields, reading corners, music rooms and art studios—so that every student gets a fair chance to discover an interest that genuinely suits them. (2)
- (viii) **C** — Art had the largest and most devoted following (the passage says art was the *least* chosen, with only a small following). (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) Inter-school Music Competition — indicative answer:**



## ROSEWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL, INDORE

## NOTICE

3 July 20XX

**Inter-school Music Competition**

The school will host an Inter-school Music Competition in the school auditorium on Saturday, 26 July, at 10 a.m. Students wishing to participate—solo or in groups, vocal or instrumental—may register their names with the undersigned by 18 July. Do come and showcase your talent.

Ishaan Kapoor  
Cultural 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:** Mount Carmel School, Bhopal, cordially invites Dr. Anil Deshmukh to grace its Investiture Ceremony as chief guest on Friday, 25 July 20XX, at 9 a.m. in the school auditorium, when the newly elected office-bearers of the Student Council will be sworn in. Your presence would inspire our young leaders. (*RSVP with name/designation.*)

**(B) Reply — indicative:** Dr. Anil Deshmukh thanks Mount Carmel School for its kind invitation and is delighted to accept the role of chief guest at the Investiture Ceremony on 25 July. He looks forward to an inspiring morning and to encouraging the newly appointed student leaders.

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 — key content:** draw attention to pollution from uncollected garbage in the locality; overflowing bins and a foul smell; health risks such as disease-carrying flies and mosquitoes; irregular collection by the municipality; suggest regular disposal, covered bins and public awareness; urge the authorities to act promptly.



**(B) Complaint Letter — key content:** state the order number and date of delivery; the wrong headphone model was sent and it was also defective; the inconvenience caused; request a prompt replacement or a full refund; ask for an early, courteous response.

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 Discipline in Student Life” — key content:** title + by-line; discipline means orderly, purposeful conduct and self-control; it improves studies, health and time management; it turns effort into habit and prevents last-minute stress; build it through small daily routines—fixed study hours, punctuality, sleep and exercise; discipline is the quiet foundation of success.

**(B) Report “Annual Function” — key content:** title + by-line/reporter; date, venue (school auditorium) and the chief guest; a colourful cultural programme—dance, music, drama—followed by prize distribution; enthusiastic participation by students of all classes; the audience responded warmly; the evening ended on a proud, memorable note.

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

Q7.

### Model Answer

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

**(A) A Thing of Beauty:**

- (i) It means that beautiful things weave a bond of joy and hope that keeps us attached to life and the earth, despite our sorrows. (1)
- (ii) ... live on / stay bound to life. (1)
- (iii) Any one: despondence; the “inhuman dearth of noble natures”; “the gloomy days”; “the unhealthy and o’er-darkened ways”. (1)
- (iv) **daily and continual.** (1)
- (v) By lifting our spirits and offering comfort, beauty removes the gloom of despondence and renews our will to go on. (1)



(vi) Metaphor — “a flowery band to bind us to the earth” (also alliteration in “dearth / days”, imagery in “gloomy days”). (1)

**(B) Keeping Quiet:** (i) pause their work and be still—the fishermen would not harm whales and the salt-gatherer would look at his hurt hands (1); (ii) man-made wars, especially environmental destruction and wars fought with gas and fire (1); (iii) ... peace and brotherhood (1); (iv) **the total destruction of war** (1); (v) people would stop harming one another and nature, and reflect instead of rushing about destructively (1); (vi) reflective, calm and persuasive (1). [Go Back to Q7](#)

Q8.

### Model Answer

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

**(A) The Enemy:** (i) because sheltering a wounded enemy could bring danger and arrest, so returning him to the sea seems the safest course (1); (ii) ... being arrested for sheltering an enemy (1); (iii) the conflict between loyalty to their country and their basic human duty to save a dying man (1); (iv) **a wounded enemy soldier** (1).

**(B) On the Face of It:** (i) that the burned face is a small matter, not a reason to hide from life (1); (ii) because people are afraid of him and shun him, which hurts far more than the scar itself (1); (iii) ... common and ordinary, not something unique to him (1); (iv) **acceptance and courage** (1). [Go Back to Q8](#)

Q9.

### Model Answer

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

**(A) Poets and Pancakes:** (i) “pancake” was the brand of make-up used in bulk at the studio, applied to actors’ faces before shooting (1); (ii) ... Robert Clive’s stables (1); (iii) because they were an odd, close-knit group who transformed people’s looks with strange lotions and potions (1); (iv) **exaggeration for humour** (1); (v) light, ironic and gently humorous (1); (vi) Gemini Studios (1).

**(B) The Interview:** (i) they feel it invades their privacy and misrepresents them (1); (ii) ... an art (1); (iii) that an interview presents a twisted or false image, not their real selves (1); (iv) **a powerful modern medium** (1); (v) because it probes into their private lives without their full consent (1); (vi) balanced—acknowledging both its value and its critics (1). [Go Back to Q9](#)



Q10.

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

- (i) Whole families toil in dingy cells over hot furnaces, losing their eyesight young; they own nothing, are bound by debt and the “sanctity” of their caste-trade, and cannot break free of middlemen, moneylenders and officials—a vicious circle of poverty.
- (ii) Gandhi reached Champaran, studied the peasants’ grievances against the indigo-sharecropping system, and used peaceful, lawful pressure; the frightened landlords finally refunded part of the money, and the peasants learned courage and their own strength.
- (iii) The make-up room sat atop a building once said to be Robert Clive’s stables; a strange fraternity of men, using truck-loads of “pancake” and odd lotions, could turn anyone into a garish “monster”—an oddly grand yet comic set-up.
- (iv) Neruda points to the Earth, which seems still yet is quietly full of life; just as its apparent stillness nurtures growth, our silence would not mean death but a reflective pause that renews us.
- (v) Any three, e.g. the sun, the moon, trees, daffodils, clear streams and the “mighty dead”; they lift our spirits, remove the “pall” of sadness and keep us attached to life like an endless fountain of joy.
- (vi) Sophie dreamed of a glamorous world—owning a boutique, becoming an actress or a fashion designer, and a romance with the footballer Danny Casey; her real life of a cramped home and modest means made these fantasies impossible.

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

Q11.

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

- (i) The King hunts relentlessly, even marrying to gain hunting grounds and bending officials to his will, to reach ninety-nine. The hundredth eludes him because tigers grow scarce; ironically, a wooden toy tiger finally causes his death.



- (ii) The General needs Sadao's surgical skill and cannot risk losing his own doctor; his personal dependence outweighs the law, so he quietly promises to send assassins instead of ordering an arrest.
- (iii) Geoff Green hopes that seeing Antarctica's fragile, ancient wilderness first-hand will awaken in young students a sense of wonder and responsibility, so that future leaders will value and protect the planet.

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

Q12.

### Model Answer

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

**(A) Poets and Pancakes:** Asokamitran paints the film world with affectionate humour. The grand "Robert Clive's stables" housing a make-up room, the "pancake" that turns people into "monsters", the idle office boy with lofty grievances, and the baffling visit of the English poet all become gently comic. Yet beneath the comedy lies sharp observation—of hierarchy, of frustrated talent, of the studio's odd politics. Humour and insight together bring the world of Gemini Studios vividly to life. (*Value points: comic details; the make-up department; minor characters; underlying observation; tone. Content 3, expression 2.*)

**(B) Going Places:** Sophie escapes her drab reality through daydreams—a boutique, fame, and a romance with Danny Casey. Reality constantly contradicts her: her family's modest means, her brother Geoff's doubts, and Casey's failure to appear at the meeting she imagines. The story shows how adolescent fantasy, though natural, collides painfully with fact, leaving Sophie lonely between the world she wants and the world she has. (*Content 3, expression 2.*) [Go Back to Q12](#)

Q13.

### Model Answer

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

**(A) On the Face of It:** Derry's face is scarred by acid, but his real disability is his bitterness, self-pity and withdrawal from people. Mr. Lamb, lame yet cheerful and open-hearted, draws him out, teaching him to value his mind, to face the world, and to see that everyone bears some "scar". The play argues that a scarred outlook, not a scarred face, is the true handicap. (*Content 3, expression 2.*)

**(B) The Tiger King:** Kalki mocks the Maharaja's vanity: to disprove a prophecy he kills a hundred tigers, bans hunting for others, marries to find more tigers,



doubles a town's taxes in a rage, and risks a minister's job over a fictitious beast. Ironically, a cheap wooden toy tiger kills him. The story satirises the arrogance and irresponsibility of autocratic power. (*Content 3, expression 2.*) [Go Back to Q13](#)

