

CBSE Class 12 English Core 2023 - Set 1-1-2

Question Paper

Conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)



Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions

- (i) This question paper contains 13 questions in three sections: Reading, Writing and Literature.
- (ii) Attempt questions according to the choices and instructions for each question. Write the correct question number and part on your answer sheet.
- (iii) Adhere to the word limits prescribed for each question.
- (iv) In Questions 3–9, attempt one of the two alternatives or extracts, where a choice is given.
- (v) In Question 10, answer any five of the six questions in 40–50 words each. In Question 11, answer any two of the three questions in 40–50 words each.
- (vi) In each of Questions 12 and 13, answer one alternative in 120–150 words.

Section A — Reading (20 Marks)

1. (1) Seagulls, as you know, never falter, never stall. To stall in the air is for them a disgrace and a dishonour. But Jonathan Livingston Seagull, unashamed, stretching his wings again in that trembling hard curve - slowing, slowing, and stalling once more - was no ordinary bird. Most gulls don't bother to learn more than the simplest facts of flight - how to get from shore to food and back again. For most gulls, it is not flying that matters, but eating. For this gull, though, it was not eating that mattered, but flight. More than anything else, Jonathan Livingston Seagull loved to fly.

(2) This kind of thinking, he found, is not the way to make oneself popular with other birds. Even his parents were dismayed as Jonathan spent the whole day alone, making hundreds of low-level gliders, experimenting. "Why, Jon, why?" his mother asked. "Why is it so hard to be like the rest of the flock, Jon? Why can't you leave low flying to the pelicans, the albatross? Why don't you eat? Son, you're bone and feathers!" "I don't mind being bone and feathers, mom. I just want to know what I can do in the air and what I can't, that's all. I just want to know." "See here, Jonathan," said his father, not unkindly. "Winter isn't far away. Boats will be few, and the surface fish will be swimming deep. If you must study, then study food, and how to get it. This flying business is all very well, but you can't eat a glide, you know. Don't you forget that the reason you fly is to eat."

1. (continued)

(3) Jonathan nodded obediently. For the next few days he tried to behave like the other gulls; he really tried, screeching and fighting with the flock around the piers and fishing boats, diving on scraps of fish and bread. But he couldn't make it work. It wasn't long before Jonathan Gull was off by himself again, far out at sea, hungry, happy, learning. The subject was speed, and in a week's practice he learned more about speed than the fastest gull alive. Time after time it happened. Careful as he was, working at the very peak of his ability, he lost control at a high speed. The key, he thought at last, dripping wet, must be to hold the wings still at high speeds - to flap up to fifty and then hold the wings still.

1. (continued)

(4) From two thousand feet he tried again, rolling into his dive, beak straight down, wings full out and stable from the moment he passed fifty miles per hour. It took tremendous strength, but it worked. In ten seconds he had blurred ninety miles per hour. Jonathan had set a world speed record for seagulls! But victory was short-lived. The instant he began his pullout, the instant he changed the angle of his wings, he snapped into the same uncontrollable disaster, and at ninety miles per hour it hit him like dynamite. Jonathan Seagull exploded in midair and smashed down into a brick-hard sea. As he sank low in the water, a strange hollow voice sounded within him. There's no way around it. I am a seagull. I am limited by my nature. If I were meant to learn so much about flying, I'd have charts for brains. If I were meant to fly at speed, I'd have a falcon's short wings. Short wings. A falcon's short wings! That's the answer! What a fool I've been! All I need is a tiny little wing, all I need is to fold most of my wings and just fly on the tips along. Short wings!

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below:

1(i). Complete the sentence by choosing an appropriate option:

Majority of seagulls fly only short distances as _____.

- | | |
|---|--|
| (A) they are more interested in food than flight. | (B) they don't have energy. |
| (C) they are not meant to fly low. | (D) food is not available at high speed. |

1(ii). Why were Jonathan Livingston's parents dismayed?

1(iii). Give two reasons for Jonathan's unconventional behaviour.

(Clue: think about Jonathan's point of view.)

1(iv). Select the option that conveys the opposite of 'glory' from words used in paragraph 1.

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| (A) disgrace | (B) dishonour |
| (C) learning | (D) unashamed |

1(v). The writer would not agree with the given statements based on paragraph 2, EXCEPT:

- | | |
|---|---|
| (A) Jonathan could not fly but only glide. | (B) Jonathan wanted to be popular with other birds. |
| (C) Jonathan realised that even the albatross flew at high altitudes. | (D) The reason seagulls flew was to find food. |

1(vi). Jonathan was different from other seagulls. Based on your understanding of paragraph 2, list what Jonathan wanted to know.

1(vii). What was the mother's concern about Jonathan?

1(viii). Complete the given sentence with an appropriate inference with respect to the following:

Father reminds Jonathan that he 'can't eat a glide' in order to _____.

1(ix). 'It wasn't long before Jonathan Gull was off by himself again, far out at sea.' Which trait of Jonathan does this statement reveal?

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| (A) practical bird | (B) persistent learner |
| (C) lonely and sad | (D) carefree and irresponsible |

1(x). Was it fair to fly like a falcon when he was just a seagull? Why does he say so?

2. (1) Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) are products that sell quickly at relatively low cost. FMCG is the fourth-largest sector in the Indian economy. There are three main segments in the sector - food and beverages, which accounts for 19% of the sector; healthcare, which accounts for 31% of the share; and household and personal care, which accounts for the remaining 50% share. The urban segment contributes to about 55% of the revenue share, while the rural segment accounts for 45%. Rise in rural consumption will drive the FMCG market. The Indian processed food market is projected to expand to US\$470 billion by 2025, up from US\$263 billion in 2019 - 20.

(2) The Indian FMCG industry grew by 16% in 2021, a 9-year high, despite nationwide lockdowns, supported by consumption-led growth and value expansion from higher product prices, particularly for staples. Real household spending is projected to increase 9.1% after 2021, after a decrease of 9.3% in 2020 due to the economic impact of the pandemic. Price increase across product categories will offset the impact of rising raw material prices, along with volume growth and resurgence of demand for discretionary items.

2. (continued)

(3) The FMCG sector has received good investments and support from the Government in the recent past. The sector witnessed healthy FDI inflows from April 2000 - March 2022.

Furthermore, as per the Union Budget 2022 - 23, a substantial amount has been allocated to the Department of Consumer Affairs, an increased amount has been allocated to the Department of Food and Public Distribution. In 2021 - 22, the Government approved Production-Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI) with an outlay of a larger amount to help Indian brands of food products in the international markets.

(4) The Government's Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme gives companies a major opportunity to boost exports. The future outlook of the FMCG rural sector looks on track now. Rural consumption has increased, led by a combination of increasing income and higher aspiration levels. There is an increased demand for branded products in rural India. The growth of organised sector in FMCG is expected to rise with an increased level of brand consciousness, augmented by the growth in modern retail.

2. (continued)

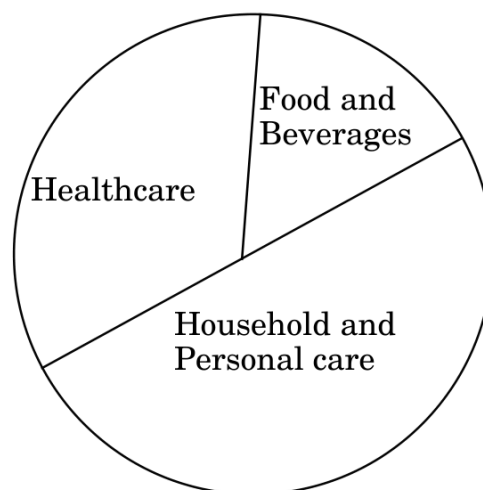


Table I. FMCG Products

1.	Processed foods : Cheese products, cereals
2.	Prepared meals : Ready-to-eat meals
3.	Beverages : Bottled water, aerated drinks, and juices
4.	Baked goods : Biscuits, bread
5.	Fresh foods, frozen foods, and dry goods : Fruits, vegetables, milk, butter, frozen food, and nuts
6.	Medicines : Aspirin, pain relievers, and over-the-counter medication that can be purchased without a prescription
7.	Cleaning products : Baking soda, washing powder
8.	Cosmetics and toiletries : Beauty products, soaps, toothpastes
9.	Office supplies : Pens, pencils

2. (continued)

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below:

2(i). Does the following statement agree with the information given in para 1?

Food and beverages segment dominates the Global FMCG market and is expected to retain its dominance.

Select from the following:

I. True - If the statement agrees with the information

II. False - If the statement contradicts the information

III. Not Given - If there is no information on this

- (A) I (True) (B) II (False)
(C) III (Not Given)

2(ii). What do you think gives opportunities to boost exports?

2(iii). Select the option that displays the most likely reason for FMCG rural sector being on track.

- (A) FMCG sector has been unable to get investments from the Government. (B) PLI schemes don't reach the rural sector.
(C) Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) of the online grocery segment in India is expected to double in the next five years. (D) There is a desire to buy branded products in the villages too.

2(iv). Complete the sentence based on the following statement:

The Indian FMCG industry grew by 16% in 2021, a 9-year high, despite nationwide lockdowns because _____.

2(v). From the given pie chart, which segment of FMCG accounts for the maximum percentage of the sector?

2(v)-VI. For the Visually Impaired Candidates only in lieu of Q.No. 2(v):

Select the option that identifies the categories of food and beverages from the given table.

- (A) 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 (B) 1, 2, 4, 6, 8
(C) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (D) 1, 6, 7, 8, 9

2(vi). Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option:

The combination of increasing income and higher aspiration levels in the rural areas has led to _____.

- (A) the Government taking a direct interest (B) the demand for branded products
(C) price increases across product categories (D) the fall of supply in urban areas

2(vii). How is the Government trying to help Indian brands of food products in the international markets?

2(viii). Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option:

The concluding paragraph of the passage makes a clear case _____.

- (A) that the rural people also want branded products (B) that the FMCG industry will not focus on brand consciousness
(C) for the role of data analytics in the FMCG industry (D) for the Government's role by providing incentives

2(ix). What will be the impact of increased level of brand consciousness?

2(x). Based on the reading of the passage, correct the following statement:

The urban segment contributes to about 45% of the revenue share, while the rural segment accounts for 55%.

Section B — Writing (20 Marks)

3(a). Attempt the following in about 50 words.

Many residents of Ajay Complex, Bhopal have undertaken the responsibility of feeding the street dogs in the Complex. As Raina / Rahul, President of R.W.A., draft a notice in 50 words to fix feeding spots and timings to avoid inconvenience to other residents.

OR

3(b). Attempt the following in about 50 words.

Your school is introducing a five-week certified module on Graphic Design during the summer vacation. Draft a notice in 50 words asking interested students to register for the same latest by 20th April. Mention relevant details like fee, timing and course coverage. You are Nishi / Nishant, Academic Incharge.

4(a). Attempt the following in about 50 words.

You are Kavita / Karan Sharma. Draft a formal letter of reply in 50 words, accepting the invitation to be the Guest of Honour on 28th February at the Inter-School Debate Competition being organised by Priti Public School. Mention day, date, time and venue.

OR

4(b). Attempt the following in about 50 words.

As Naina / Niraj Gupta, Principal of Harmony Public School, draft a formal invitation to parents in 50 words, inviting them to attend an orientation workshop on Effective Parenting by Dr. S.K. Hridhay. Mention day, date, time and venue.

5(a). Attempt the following in 120 - 150 words.

You are concerned at the increase in the number of incidents taking place on poorly lit roads in your city. Write a letter in 120 - 150 words to the editor of a national daily expressing your views and suggesting solutions. You are Hamida / Hamid. You may use the cues given below.

BE SAFE

- Poorly lit roads
- Do not travel alone at night
- Be alert of your surroundings
- Road accidents - hit and run incidents
- Petty crimes - snatching valuables at knife point

OR

5(b). Attempt the following in 120 - 150 words.

You are Anita / Andrew of B-15, M.G. Road, Jammu. You read the advertisement for an Accounts Officer in the local newspaper and wish to apply for the same. Write a letter of application in 120 - 150 words along with your biodata.

World Solutions Delhi - Requires Accounts Officer

Qualification - B.Com.

Experience - Minimum 2 years

Job Requirement - Maintaining books of accounts, preparation of Balance Sheets

Knowledge of basic computer skills

Apply to:

Managing Director

World Solutions

Galaxy Building

Geetanjali Enclave

New Delhi

6(a). Attempt the following in 120 - 150 words.

You are Mira / Mohan of Rose Public School, Vadodara. Your school recently celebrated its Annual Day. You were asked to cover this event as a student correspondent of the school magazine. Write a report in 120 - 150 words. Support your ideas with outline cues given below. Mention day, date, time and venue.

Programme

- Welcome address
 - Speech by Chief Guest
 - Cultural Programme
 - Award ceremony
 - Honouring Scholastic Students. Felicitation of Teachers who have completed 25 years of service
 - Vote of thanks
-

OR

6(b). Attempt the following in 120 - 150 words.

As a student studying in Class 12, you are confused about which course to pursue after school. To gain clarity you attended a career fair in which you interacted with professionals from various fields and admission officers from different institutions. Based on your experience, write an article in 120 - 150 words on the importance of making informed choices. You are Rita / Rahul.

Support your ideas with the cues given below:

- Different courses
 - Eligibility
 - Admission procedures
 - Aptitude testing
 - Education loans
 - Further prospects
-

Section C — Literature (40 Marks)

7. Read the following extract and answer the questions.

*I looked again at her, wan,
pale
as a late winter's moon and felt that
old
familiar ache, my childhood's fear,
but all I said was, see you soon,
Amma,
all I did was smile and smile and
smile ...*

(My Mother at Sixty-Six)

7(i). The poem 'My Mother at Sixty-Six' captures the _____ of the narrator.

I. happiness

II. fear

III. dismay

IV. anxiety

(A) Only I

(B) I and IV

(C) II and IV

(D) Only III

7(ii). Identify the phrase from the extract that suggests the following:

She was overwhelmed with emotion and could not speak much.

7(iii). The word 'wan' in the given context most nearly means _____.

(A) pale

(B) old

(C) unwell

(D) anxious

7(iv). Complete the following analogy correctly. Do not repeat from the example used.

Trees sprinting : personification : : _____ : simile

7(v). On the basis of the extract, study the two statements, I and II given below:

I. The poet accepts the reality of her mother's declining health and old age.

II. She is nostalgic about her childhood days spent with her mother.

Choose the most appropriate option:

(A) I is true, but II is false

(B) Both I and II are true

(C) II is the reason for I

(D) II cannot be inferred from the extract

7(vi). Explain the following statement with reference to the above extract:

All I did was smile and smile and smile.

OR

7. Read the following extract and answer the questions.

*Now we will count to twelve
and we will all keep still.
For once on the face of the Earth
let's not speak in any language,
Let's stop for one second,
and not move our arms so much.
It would be an exotic moment
without rush, without engines,
we would all be together*

(Keeping Quiet)

7(i). The poet counts up to twelve as a countdown to _____.

(A) lift arms.

(B) speak in different languages.

(C) stop all activities.

(D) be without engines.

7(ii). The poet appeals to the people that they should _____.

- I. keep quiet
- II. not move
- III. celebrate festivals
- IV. not hibernate

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| (A) Only II | (B) I and II |
| (C) Only I | (D) I and IV |

7(iii). Choose the option that displays the same poetic device as used in the third line of the extract.

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| (A) lightning danced across the sky | (B) greedy good doers |
| (C) children spilling out of their homes | (D) fight like cats and dogs |

7(iv). The benefits of 'Keeping Quiet' include _____.

- I. harmony
- II. non-violence
- III. brotherhood
- IV. meditation

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| (A) I and II | (B) II and IV |
| (C) I, II and III | (D) I, II, III and IV |

7(v). Complete the statement with reference to the extract:

The poet suggests we will all be together when _____.

7(vi). The word 'exotic' in the extract most nearly means _____.

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| (A) unique | (B) luxurious |
| (C) rich | (D) illusive |

8. Read the following extract and answer the questions.

"Because we are born into this community, we are never given any honour or dignity or respect; we are stripped of all that. But if we study and make progress, we can throw away these indignities. So study with care, learn all you can. If you are always ahead in your lessons, people will come to you of their own accord and attach themselves to you. Work hard and learn."

(Memories of Childhood)

8(i). Who is the speaker? Who is he speaking to?

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| (A) Appa; Bama | (B) Bama; Amma |
| (C) Bama; The Zamindar | (D) Annan; Bama |

8(ii). Select the option that best describes the speaker in the above extract:

- I. marginalized
- II. practical
- III. idealistic
- IV. curious
- V. aggressive

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| (A) I and II | (B) III and IV |
| (C) II and IV | (D) IV and V |

8(iii). Complete the following statement with reference to the community:

The treatment meted out to the community was _____.

8(iv). Which of the following summarizes the author's opinion about study?

- (A) Childhood should be spent in experiential learning. (B) Studying is better than playing.
(C) Studying is essential to the nation's development. (D) Studying leads to social reforms and progress.

OR

8. Read the following extract and answer the questions.

You think 'Here's a boy.' You look at me ... and then you see my face and you think. 'That's bad. That's a terrible thing. That's the ugliest thing I ever saw.' You think, 'Poor boy.' But I'm not. Not poor. Underneath, you are afraid. Anybody would be. I am. When I look in the mirror, and see it, I'm afraid of me.

(On the Face of It)

8(i). Who is the speaker and who is he speaking to?

- (A) Derry; His mother (B) Derry; Mr. Lamb
(C) Derry; Ladies at the bus stop (D) Mother; Mr. Lamb

8(ii). According to the speaker, what do people feel about him?

- (A) People are empathetic towards him. (B) People are repulsed by his appearance.
(C) People are annoyed by his presence. (D) People are unhappy at his association with his neighbours.

8(iii). Complete the following statement with reference to the extract:

When I look in the mirror, and see it, I'm afraid of me _____.

8(iv). Explain the following statement with reference to the given extract:

You think, 'Poor boy.' But I'm not.

9. Read the following extract and answer the questions.

The make-up department was first headed by a Bengali who became too big for a studio and left. He was succeeded by a Maharashtrian who was assisted by a Dharwar Kannadiga, an Andhra, a Madras Indian Christian, an Anglo-Burmese and the usual local Tamils. All this shows that there was a great deal of national integration long before A.I.R. and Doordarshan began broadcasting programmes on national integration. This gang of nationally integrated make-up men could turn any decent-looking person into a hideous crimson hued monster with the help of truck-loads of pancake and a number of other locally made potions and lotions.

(Poets and Pancakes)

9(i). How was there national integration long before A.I.R. and Doordarshan in the make-up department?

- (A) The staff consisted of a Bengali, a Maharashtrian, a Dharwar Kannadiga, an Andhra, a Madras Indian Christian, an Anglo-Burmese and Tamils. (B) They recited slogans of national integration.
(C) The staff studied make-up techniques of various states. (D) Their clients were from various states.

9(ii). Select a suitable word from the extract to complete the analogy:

front : rear : : ravishing : _____

9(iii). Select the correct option to fill in the blanks:

The make-up artists could turn _____ looking people into _____ looking men and women.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| (A) ordinary; pleasant | (B) ugly; good |
| (C) pleasant; ugly | (D) monstrous; beautiful |

9(iv). The word 'pancake' in the extract most nearly means _____.

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| (A) brand name | (B) lemon cake |
| (C) savoury | (D) preservative |

9(v). Based on the above extract, choose the statement that is true for the make-up department.

- | | |
|---|--|
| (A) The make-up artists were welcomed by the actors. | (B) The make-up artists were poorly paid. |
| (C) The work done by the make-up artists was not appreciated. | (D) The department exhibited national integration. |

9(vi). Bring out the irony in the above given extract.

OR

9. Read the following extract and answer the questions.

Similarly, we have a lot of empty spaces in our lives. I call them interstices. Say you are coming over to my place. You are in the elevator and while you are coming up, I am waiting for you. This is an interstice, an empty space. I work in empty spaces. While waiting for your elevator to come up from the first to the third floor, I have already written an article!

(The Interview)

9(i). Umberto Eco, was _____.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| (A) a professor of semiotics, an author | (B) an interviewer, a novelist |
| (C) a journalist, a professor | (D) a publisher, an author |

9(ii). Rationalise, to support the given statement:

Similarly, we have a lot of empty spaces in our lives.

9(iii). Rewrite the sentence by replacing the underlined phrase with its inference:

I call them interstices.

9(iv). On the basis of the extract, study the two statements, I and II given below:

I. Umberto Eco works even in the spare time between activities.

II. Umberto Eco does not like to be interviewed.

Choose the most appropriate option:

- | | |
|---|---|
| (A) I can be inferred from the extract, but II cannot | (B) I cannot be inferred from the extract, but II can |
| (C) I and II are true | (D) II is the reason for I |

9(v). Replace the underlined word with its antonym from the extract.

Umberto Eco does not like to waste time. He writes an article while he is proceeding to the elevator.

9(vi). Umberto Eco's views on his manner of work are based on _____.

- (A) facts (B) an interview
(C) his blog (D) hypothesis

10(a). What were Franz's feelings as he set out for school and why? (The Last Lesson)

10(b). What vicious circle are the bangle-makers trapped in? (Lost Spring)

10(c). What were Douglas's initial thoughts when he was pushed into the pool? (Deep Water)

10(d). Who was Edla Williamson? Why did she visit the forge at night? (The Rattrap)

10(e). Why did Sophie wish to delve more deeply in 'her brother's affections'? (Going Places)

10(f). Why do Aunt Jennifer's tigers not fear the men beneath the tree? (Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

11(a). Did the Tiger King manage to kill the hundredth tiger? Why / Why not? (The Tiger King)

11(b). Why did Charley buy old-style currency? (The Third Level)

11(c). Why does Derry enter Mr. Lamb's garden? (On the Face of It)

12(a). Attempt the following in 120 - 150 words.

'Civil disobedience had triumphed for the first time in modern India.' When and how did it happen? (Indigo)

OR

12(b). Attempt the following in 120 - 150 words.

In the chapter 'Poets and Pancakes', the author has used gentle humour to point out human foibles. Pick out instances of this to show how it served to make the extract engaging.

13(a). Attempt the following in 120 - 150 words.

How has human civilization impacted our environment? Comment with reference to the lesson 'Journey to the End of the Earth'.

OR

13(b). Attempt the following in 120 - 150 words.

Dr. Sadao is torn between his duty as a doctor and his responsibility as a patriotic citizen. Elaborate. (The Enemy)

- End of Question Paper -