CBSE Class 12 English Core 2023 - Set 1/C/1 - Compartment

Question Paper

Conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)

Time Allowed: 3 Hours **Maximum Marks: 80**

General Instructions

(i) This question paper has **13 questions**. All questions are compulsory.

(ii) This question paper contains three sections: **Section A: Reading Skills**, **Section B: Creative Writing Skills** and **Section C: Literature**.

(iii) Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.

(iv) Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.

(v) Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

Section A - Reading Skills (20 marks)

1. Read the passage given below:

(1) The art of conversation, like any art, is a skill of elegance, nuance and creative execution. I happen to believe that there is an art to everything we do, and why not? Without flair and panache most things become a drudgery. Why settle for drudgery when you can have art?

(2) When it comes to the art of conversation, we've all met people who seem to have the knack for it. They can talk to anybody about anything and they seem to do it with complete ease. And while it's true that there are those who are born with the gift of the gab, luckily for the rest of us, conversation skills can be developed and mastered.

(3) Conversation is a form of communication; however, it is usually more spontaneous and less formal. We enter into conversations for purposes of pleasant engagement in order to meet new people, to find out information and to enjoy social interactions. As far as types of conversation, they vary anywhere from intellectual conversations and information exchanges to friendly debates and witty banter.

(4) While there is more to having good conversation skills than being a comedian, a dramatic actor, or a great story teller, it is not necessary to become more gregarious, animated, or outgoing.

1. (continued)

(5) Instead, you can develop the ability to listen attentively, ask fitting questions, and pay attention to the answers, all qualities essential to the art of conversation. With diligent practice and several good pointers, anyone can improve his or her conversation skills.

(6) People who are genuinely interested in others are usually interesting themselves. Why? Because they are more open to learning about and understanding new things. Showing interest also encourages the other person to be relaxed and share information more freely. Display attentiveness by keeping good eye contact and listening actively.

(7) If you happen to be shy and need time to warm up before you share your own views, you can ask open-ended questions or encourage the other person to elaborate on their insights. This kick-starts the conversation and before you know it you are engaged in a good conversational flow.

(8) To start a conversation, go up to someone and introduce yourself. It is both polite and necessary to start off things smoothly.

(9) When the occasion calls for it, you can offer a handshake and then smile and make eye contact. Being friendly puts the other person at ease and opens the door for him or her to introduce themselves.

1. (continued)

(10) The art of conversation, like any skill, takes practice. Period. Do not expect to be adept after your first few attempts. It will take practice as well as exposure to many different social situations.

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

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

The art of conversation is a skill of _____.

(A) uniformity and compatibility
(B) friendliness and consensus
(C) assertion and ease
(D) sophistication and creativity

1(ii). Comment on the writer's reference to conversation skills as something you are 'born' with.

1(iii). List two reasons why people enter into conversation.

1(iv). Select the option that conveys the opposite of 'witty', as used in paragraph 3.

(A) educated
(B) creative
(C) ignorant
(D) boring

1(v). The writer would not agree with the given statements based on paragraphs 3 to 5, EXCEPT:

(A) Conversations are meant only for purposes of research.
(B) It is important to be outgoing to be a good conversationist.
(C) Conversational skills can be improved with regular practice.
(D) Attentive listening is important only while debating.

1(vi). According to the author, showing interest in others leads to interesting conversation. Based on your understanding of paragraphs 5 and 6, list one way how a good listener can make the other person speak more freely.

1(vii). How can one warm up before one shares one's views?

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

The writer gives an example of going up to someone and introducing oneself in order to _____.

1(ix). How can the ways to start a conversation, as suggested in the passage, be best described?

(A) challenging
(B) practical
(C) exhausting
(D) humbling

1(x). Select the most suitable title for the above passage.

(A) Conversation - A Challenging Pursuit
(B) Conversation vs Communication
(C) Effective Listening
(D) Mastering the Art of Conversation

2. Read the passage given below:

(1) Travel today, whether for purposes of business or leisure, takes up 25 - 30% of the annual budget of a family, according to a survey conducted in 2021.

(2) Today, it is trending to spend money on experiences rather than consumables. Travel is no longer looked at as just visiting a new place. It underlines an ethos, a culture, a pandora's box full of surprises. People who love to travel enjoy relaxation, new cultures, foreign food or incredible landscapes different from their normal surroundings. Some people enjoy the motion of travelling, being on a boat, plane, train or bus. The list is endless and the reasons range from simple to complex. The study further revealed changing trends in travel tourism. While some are serious travellers who fall under the category of medical tourism, a large percentage are splurging on pleasure travel. When questioned on why, what are the benefits or purpose, the responses can be categorized under a few common headings.

2. (continued)

(3) Those who do it for fun, for a sense of adventure, to take on risks and challenges are the 18 - 30 year-olds. While the 30 - 40 years bracket couple fun with education, a thirst for knowledge and experience, to see beautiful places, explore cultures and cuisines. They believe that an ever-changing environment is stimulating, refreshing and brings endless learning opportunities. Those between the 40 - 50 years travelled to expand their minds and challenge perspectives. They want a break from their soul-destroying lifestyles. The 60 years and above were the NOW travellers, they feel they might drop dead the day before they retire or be too old and unfit to travel, or take on, physical challenges. The in-between 50 - 60 years adopt the best of both worlds.

(4) The survey concluded that travel has become an integral part of people's lives, and it provides us our greatest stories, our most cherished moments and countless learnings that broaden our horizons and above all teach us about ourselves and others.

Age-wise distribution of holiday-goers in percentages

2. (continued)

Age	Adventure	Education	Relaxation	Now Travellers
Below 20	39	38	6	17
20–30	44	28	12	16
30–50	25	24	30	21
Above 50	8	10	40	42

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

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

25 - 30% of people have adopted a long term travel lifestyle and have accordingly prioritised their budgets.

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.

2(ii). Do you think the researchers of the survey aimed to popularise a particular type of tourism? Support your answer with reference to the text.

2(iii). Select the option that displays the most likely reason for people to make travel budgets.

(A) In order to gain relief from work pressure.
(B) Learn about new people and their language.
(C) Buy the latest designs in the market.
(D) Undertake journeys that give relaxation, adventure, or knowledge.

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

Travel today, underlines an ethos, a culture, a Pandora's box full of surprises. We can say this because _____.

2(v). Select the option from the table that displays the most popular reason for travelling for the 30 - 50 year-olds.

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

The 2021 survey aims to identify _____.

(A) the most popular tourist travel destination.
(B) the age group that travels the most.
(C) the different reasons why people travel.
(D) the challenges of the travel tourism industry.

2(vii). The reasons why people travel led to individual responses. List one way in which 18 - 30 year-olds satisfy their yearning for adventure.

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

The concluding sentence of the text makes a clear case for _____ by listing it as the underlying feature of all forms of travel.

(A) competency
(B) universality
(C) expenditure
(D) acceptability

2(ix). Complete the sentence appropriately with one/two words:

In the context of 'Education' in the given table, the _____ year-olds are least interested in it.

2(x). Based on the reading of the text, state a point to challenge the given statement.

People feel they can travel whenever they want, at any time in their lives.

Section B - Creative Writing Skills (20 marks)

3. Attempt any one from (A) and (B) given below. (5 marks)

3(A). Your school is planning to organise an educational trip to Shimla. As the school captain of Rosewood Public School, Guwahati, draft a notice in about 50 words informing the students about the details of the trip. You are Manoj / Mira. Mention the day, date, time and venue.

OR

3(B). You are Aman / Archana, President of the Drama Club of Oxford Public School, Bengaluru. On the occasion of Children's Day, your club is planning to conduct an inter-house one-act play competition. Draft a notice in about 50 words giving relevant details about the competition. Mention the day, date, time and venue.

4. Attempt any one from (A) and (B) given below. (5 marks)

4(A). Your school is planning to celebrate its Annual Sports Day. On behalf of the Principal, draft an invitation card in about 50 words to be sent out to the parents and the guests. Mention the day, date, time and venue.

OR

4(B). You are Mr. Kulkarni. You have recently received an invitation to the wedding of your friend, Mr Sharma's son, Suraj. Write a reply in about 50 words expressing your inability to attend the wedding due to a prior family function.

5. Attempt any one from (A) and (B) given below. (5 marks)

5(A). You are Deepak / Diya of 14, J.P. Nagar, Bengaluru. You recently came across an advertisement for the post of a librarian in Sahyog Public School, Bengaluru. Write an application in 120 - 150 words along with the bio-data to the Principal, submitting your candidature.

Position: School Librarian

Job Responsibilities:

- Maintaining digital catalogue
- Managing library classes
- Document book borrowings / returns
- Identify additions to library books

Expected Qualifications:

- Graduate in Library Science
- Competent in computer skills
- Good interpersonal skills
- 5 years experience

OR

5(B). Every monsoon, the roads of the city develop potholes which become a safety hazard. People can fall, leading to serious and fatal injuries. Transportation vehicles get damaged leading to accidents. This has been a yearly feature. Write a letter in 120 - 150 words to the editor of a newspaper expressing your disappointment at the poor standard of road repair done year after year. Mention inconveniences faced and suggest solutions. Use the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this letter. You are Rajiv / Reena of 14, Colaba, Mumbai.

Condition of Roads

- Potholes
- High Speed-breakers
- Poor lighting
- Water-logging

Ways to Improve

- Manage water-logging
- Repair of roads
- Proper lighting

6. Attempt any one from (A) and (B) given below. (5 marks)

6(A). There are some places and communities in India where girl children are still denied education. You strongly feel that this will hamper the progress of our country. Write an article in 120 - 150 words on the topic: 'Gender Equality - The Need of the Hour'. You are Sunil / Sunita. Use the following cues.

She too has a right

- to live
- to dream
- to education
- to respect
- to equality
- to equal opportunity

Educate the girl child - create an informed progressive nation.

OR

6(B). You are Vinay / Vijaya, the staff reporter of the Times of India. You are sent to cover the flood-hit areas of Assam. Write a report in about 120 - 150 words to be published in the newspaper. Support your ideas with cues given below.

- Areas of destruction
- Loss of life and property
- Evacuation, Rescue Operations
- Measures taken by the government

Section C - Literature (40 marks)

7. Attempt any one of the two extracts (A) and (B) given below. (6 × 1 = 6 marks)

7(A). Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

Driving from my parent's home to Cochin last Friday morning,
I saw my mother, beside me,
doze, open mouthed, her face ashen like that
of a corpse and realised with pain
that she was as old as she looked but soon
put that thought away, and looked out at Young
Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling
out of their homes.

(My Mother at Sixty-Six)

7(A)(i). Choose the option that displays the same poetic device as used in the extract.

(A) deafening silence
(B) swaying softly and slowly
(C) pitter-patter rain
(D) as white as snow

7(A)(ii). What does the phrase 'realise with pain' indicate?

(A) guilt
(B) anguish
(C) wounded
(D) revelation

7(A)(iii). The poet describes her mother as _____.

I. old
II. wise
III. quick
IV. weak
V. strong

Choose the most appropriate option:

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

7(A)(iv). Answer in one word.

On seeing her mother dozing, open mouthed, the poet felt _____.

7(A)(v). The merry children symbolise all of the following EXCEPT _____.

(A) freedom and energy
(B) playfulness and cheerfulness
(C) vigour and health
(D) maturity and innocence

7(A)(vi). Which of the following is an apt title for the extract?

(A) Spring and Winter
(B) Merry Thoughts
(C) Trip to Cochin
(D) My Beautiful Mother

OR

7(B). Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

It would be an exotic moment
without rush, without engines,
we would all be together
in a sudden strangeness.

(Keeping Quiet)

7(B)(i). What does 'it' refer to?

(A) travelling in the train
(B) spending time together
(C) moment of silence
(D) without rush

7(B)(ii). Complete the analogy correctly. DO NOT repeat the used example.

Without rush, without engines : repetition :: Sudden strangeness : _____

7(B)(iii). Identify the phrase from the extract which suggests 'no hustle and bustle'.

7(B)(iv). Who is 'we' referred to?

(A) all human beings
(B) fishermen
(C) people who create war
(D) poets who write poems

7(B)(v). On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to I and II.

I. There is an urgent need for mankind to introspect and live in harmony.

II. We should put an end to all destructive activities.

(A) I is true but II is false
(B) II is true but I is false
(C) Both I and II are true
(D) Both I and II are false

7(B)(vi). Fill in the blank with one word with reference to the context.

The moment when everyone keeps silent will be _____.

8. Attempt any one of the two extracts (A) and (B) given below. (4 × 1 = 4 marks)

8(A). Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

To make sure, I walked over to a newsboy and glanced at the stack of papers at his feet. It was The World, and The World hasn't been published for years. The lead story said something about President Cleveland. I've found that front page since, in the Public Library files, and it was printed June 11, 1894.

(The Third Level)

8(A)(i). Answer in one word:

The World is the name of a _____ that the narrator glanced at.

8(A)(ii). Complete the sentence:

The significance of the year 1894 was _____.

8(A)(iii). The phrase 'Lead Story' means _____.

(A) story about VIPs
(B) story about the President
(C) news given greatest prominence
(D) news read by a prominent actor

8(A)(iv). Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that the author had reached the third level. (Clue: a line)

OR

8(B). Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

Derry: Not in a fire, I got acid all down that side of my face and it burned it all away. It ate my face up. It ate me up. And now its like this and it won't ever be any different.

Mr. Lamb: No

Derry: Aren't you interested?

Mr. Lamb: You're a boy who came into the garden. Plenty do. I'm interested in anybody. Anything. There's nothing God made that doesn't interest me. Look over there... over beside the far wall. What can you see?

(On the Face of It)

8(B)(i). Complete the sentence appropriately, with reference to the extract.

Derry refers to acid eating him up because _____.

8(B)(ii). Derry tells Mr. Lamb, 'Aren't you interested?'

What are the things that interest Mr. Lamb as per the extract?

8(B)(iii). Select the option that best describes Derry and Mr. Lamb in the extract.

(A) Derry: bitter; Mr. Lamb: positive
(B) Derry: friendly; Mr. Lamb: talkative
(C) Derry: scared; Mr. Lamb: authoritative
(D) Derry: mature; Mr. Lamb: calm

8(B)(iv). Which of the following is an apt title for the extract?

(A) Acid and Fire
(B) Boy who came to the garden
(C) God and his Presence
(D) Different Interests

9. Attempt any one of the two extracts (A) and (B) given below. (6 × 1 = 6 marks)

9(A). Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

He had gone to the December 1916 annual convention of the Indian National Congress party in Lucknow. There were 2,301 delegates and many visitors. During the proceedings, Gandhi recounted, "a peasant came up to me looking like any other peasant in India, poor and emaciated, and said, 'I am Raj Kumar Shukla. I am from Champaran, and I want you to come to my district'".

(Indigo)

9(A)(i). Which of the following do you infer from the last sentence?

(A) Champaran was a major city.
(B) Champaran was a popular destination.
(C) He wanted the Indian National Congress to be in Champaran.
(D) There was a problem in Champaran which needed Gandhi's attention.

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

adventurous : risk-taking :: starved : _____

9(A)(iii). On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to I and II.

I. Raj Kumar Shukla met Gandhi during the proceedings of the annual convention of Indian National Congress.

II. Raj Kumar Shukla was a lawyer from Champaran.

(A) I is true but II is false.
(B) II is true but I is false.
(C) Both I and II are true.
(D) Both I and II are false.

9(A)(iv). The purpose of Raj Kumar Shukla's visit was to _____.

9(A)(v). Rewrite the sentence by replacing the underlined phrase with its inference.

A peasant came up to me looking like any other peasant.

9(A)(vi). Answer in one word.

Gandhi met Shukla in _____.

OR

9(B). Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

The ironmaster assumed that he felt embarrassed because of his miserable clothing.

"Please don't think that I have such a fine home that you cannot show yourself there." He said.... "Elizabeth is dead, as you may already have heard. My boys are abroad, and there is no one at home except my oldest daughter and myself. We were just saying that it was too bad we didn't have any company for Christmas. Now come along with me and help us make the Christmas food disappear a little faster."

But the stranger said no, and no again no, and the ironmaster, saw that he must give in.

(The Rattrap)

9(B)(i). Select the option that completes the given sentence appropriately.

The iron master assumed that the peddler did not want to come to his home because _____.

(A) the peddler had something to hide.
(B) the peddler had a shabby appearance.
(C) the peddler feared his secret would be out.
(D) he lived alone with his daughter.

9(B)(ii). The peddler's refusal to accompany the ironmaster made the ironmaster _____.

(A) angry.
(B) more stubborn.
(C) feel humiliated.
(D) accept defeat.

9(B)(iii). On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below.

I. The ironmaster has a very expensive home.

II. The ironmaster looked forward to company at Christmas.

(A) I can be inferred from the extract but II cannot.
(B) I cannot be inferred from the extract but II can.
(C) I is true but II is false.
(D) II is the reason for I.

9(B)(iv). Select the suitable word from the extract to complete the following analogy.

dead : alive : : appear : _____

9(B)(v). Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that the ironmaster is sympathetic towards the peddler.

9(B)(vi). Based on the above extract choose the statement that is true for the ironmaster.

(A) He is a good judge of character.
(B) He prefers spending Christmas with this family.
(C) He is soft spoken and compassionate.
(D) He is firm and decisive.

10. Answer any five of the following in about 40–50 words each. (5 × 2 = 10 marks)

10(a). What was strange and unusual about M. Hamel's dress and conduct on the last day? (The Last Lesson)

10(b). Why were Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering? What does this speak of her married life? (Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

10(c). What does Anees Jung mean by the expression 'children becoming partners in survival'? (Lost Spring)

10(d). How does nature contribute to our good health? (A Thing of Beauty)

10(e). Why was Jansie feeling sad when she heard about Sophie's desire to open a boutique? (Going Places)

10(f). What does Robert Frost mean by the expression 'Selfish Cars'? What poetic device is used in this expression? (A Roadside Stand)

11. Answer any two of the following in about 40–50 words each. (2 × 2 = 4 marks)

11(a). Why was Louisa worried about Charley? (The Third Level)

11(b). How was Zitkala different from Judewin? (Memories of Childhood)

11(c). Why did the servants decide to leave Dr. Sadao's house? (The Enemy)

12. Answer any one of the following in about 120–150 words. (5 marks)

12(a). Saheb and Mukesh are victims of the apathy of the Government and society. Support your answer with a rationale. (Lost Spring)

OR

12(b). What attributes of Subbu raised him to the status of No. 2 at Gemini Studio? Substantiate your answer with evidence from the text. (Poets and Pancakes)

13. Answer any one of the following in about 120–150 words. (5 marks)

13(a). 'Tiger King' is the story of a leader who is whimsical and autocratic. Justify the above statement quoting evidences from the text. (The Tiger King)

OR

13(b). How is visiting Antarctica important to understand the Earth's past, present and future? Support your answer with a rationale. (Journey to the End of the Earth)

- End of Question Paper -