Examination Series Paper 09

FINAL PRODUCTION

Board: CBSE Class: 10 Code: 184 Session: 2026–27

English Language and Literature

Time allowed: 3 hours Maximum marks: 80

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Role: QP | Version: 3.0.0

Name: _____ Roll number: _____

General instructions

There are 11 main questions in three sections. All main questions are compulsory; follow the internal-choice instructions for each question.

Section A: Reading Skills — 20 marks. Section B: Grammar and Writing Skills — 20 marks. Section C: Literature Textbook — 40 marks.

Read each task carefully and follow its stated response length. Write answers in the answer booklet.

For one-mark reading and extract responses, answer briefly as directed. Write the two-mark short responses in 30–40 words.

Choose one option in each MCQ. For Questions 6 and 7, answer one complete extract; do not mix parts from A and B.

Section A Reading Skills

1 Reading comprehension [10 marks]

Read the discursive passage and answer all eight parts that follow.

(1) During a disagreement, listening is often confused with waiting quietly for a turn to speak. A person may remain silent while preparing a reply to an argument the other speaker has not actually made. The silence looks courteous, yet little understanding takes place. A more demanding kind of listening involves checking whether one can describe the other person's position in terms that the person would recognise, before deciding how to respond to it.

(2) This does not require pretending that all positions are equally convincing. Someone may accurately understand a proposal and still reject it. The distinction matters because agreement is a possible result of discussion, while understanding is part of the work that makes discussion useful. If these are confused, asking a question may be mistaken for surrender, and changing a mistaken description may feel like losing a contest rather than improving the conversation.

(3) Consider a school group discussing whether its exhibition should stay open later. One member worries about travel home; another hears this as opposition to the entire exhibition. A brief check can separate the actual concern from the larger claim attributed to it. The group may still disagree about the timetable, but it can now examine transport arrangements instead of arguing about whether someone values the exhibition at all. A more accurate disagreement can be a worthwhile achievement.

(4) Questions used for checking must leave space for correction. Asking whether someone has understood correctly is of little use if the answer is interrupted immediately. Nor should a speaker be required to explain the same point endlessly while others avoid making any decision. Time limits and a clear purpose can protect careful listening from becoming another way to delay action. The aim is enough shared understanding to address the issue, not perfect access to another person's mind.

(5) There are also limits to what a discussion should demand. A member should not have to disclose private family circumstances merely to prove that a travel concern is genuine. The group can ask what practical condition needs attention without claiming a right to every personal detail behind it. Respectful listening therefore includes noticing what information is necessary for a decision and what belongs to the speaker's private life. When a decision is finally made, a short account of the reasons can show which concerns were considered. Even a member whose preferred option was not chosen can then see how the discussion reached its result. Listening cannot guarantee agreement, but it can make the grounds of disagreement clearer and the process more accountable.

1(I) Which behaviour illustrates the misleading appearance of listening in paragraph 1?
(a) Asking for a correction to a summary.
(b) Preparing a reply to a claim the other person has not made.
(c) Rejecting a proposal after understanding it.
(d) Explaining the reasons for a final decision. [1]

1(II) What test of understanding does paragraph 1 suggest? [1]

1(III) Find the ONE word in paragraph 2 meaning giving up resistance or yielding. [1]

1(IV) In 30–40 words, explain why understanding and agreement need to be distinguished. [2]

1(V) What changes after the exhibition group checks the travel concern?
(a) Every member must favour a later closing time.
(b) The exhibition is automatically cancelled.
(c) Transport becomes an issue to examine instead of alleged lack of commitment.
(d) Personal family details become compulsory. [1]

1(VI) TRUE or FALSE: Careful listening requires discussion to continue until everyone has perfect access to everyone else's mind. [1]

1(VII) Which request best respects the boundary described in paragraph 5?
(a) Tell us every private family difficulty before we listen.
(b) Explain which travel arrangement needs attention.
(c) Prove that your preferred option must win.
(d) Repeat the same explanation without any time limit. [1]

1(VIII) In 30–40 words, explain how giving reasons after a decision can benefit a member whose preference was rejected. [2]

2 Reading comprehension [10 marks]

Read the case-based factual passage and answer all nine parts that follow.

(1) A fictional school book exchange began Monday with forty books on its shelf. Each day, pupils could donate books and borrow books. The table records transactions, and the closing stock is calculated as opening stock plus donations minus borrowings. Each day's closing stock becomes the next day's opening stock. No other books entered or left during these five days, and no borrowing returns occurred in this record.

(2) A transaction counts one book, not one person. A pupil might donate several books or borrow on more than one day. The register did not record unique pupil identities. Consequently, adding borrowings gives the number of book transactions but cannot reveal how many different pupils used the exchange. The number remaining on the shelf is also different from the number of books that passed through the exchange during the week.

(3) The committee wants to know both how actively books circulated and whether enough remained for future visitors. A high borrowing count alone cannot settle both questions. Staff therefore retain the opening stock and both kinds of movement rather than publish only a single weekly total. The record describes this exchange for these five days; it does not measure whether the borrowed books were finished, enjoyed or useful for a particular lesson.

Day	Books donated	Books borrowed
Monday	8	12
Tuesday	5	9
Wednesday	12	7
Thursday	3	11
Friday	7	6
Opening stock	40 books	No returns recorded

2(I) Calculate Monday's closing stock. [1]

2(II) Tuesday's opening stock is:
(a) 40 books.
(b) 36 books.
(c) 45 books.
(d) 32 books. [1]

2(III) On which day do donations exceed borrowings by the greatest number? [1]

2(IV) Which expression gives the final stock after all five days?
(a) 40 + 35 − 45
(b) 35 + 45 − 40
(c) 40 − 35 + 45
(d) 40 + 35 + 45 [1]

2(V) In 30–40 words, explain why forty-five borrowings do not prove that forty-five different pupils borrowed books. [2]

2(VI) What is the shelf stock at the end of Friday? [1]

2(VII) What is the lowest closing stock during the five days? [1]

2(VIII) Name ONE outcome of reading that the transaction register cannot measure. [1]

2(IX) Which additional record would directly answer how many different pupils borrowed?
(a) Only a count of shelves.
(b) The colour of each book cover.
(c) A unique pupil identifier attached to each borrowing.
(d) Only the opening stock repeated daily. [1]

Section B Grammar and Writing Skills

3 Grammar [10 marks]

Complete any TEN of the TWELVE grammar tasks, as directed.

3(I) Choose the form describing temporary behaviour at the present moment: You are usually patient, but right now you _____ unusually impatient.
(a) are being
(b) were being
(c) had been
(d) will be [1]

3(II) Complete with the future perfect passive of finish: By noon tomorrow, the repairs _____. [1]

3(III) Choose the determiner that fits after the definite article: We spent the _____ morning arranging the displays.
(a) all
(b) every
(c) each
(d) whole [1]

3(IV) Correct the single agreement error: The word “shoes” are printed twice in the notice. Treat word as the subject head. Write Error→Correction. [1]

3(V) Report the warning using the supplied start: The librarian said to us, “Never fold these pages.” Begin: The librarian warned us _____; change these to those. [1]

3(VI) Choose the modal expression for a deduction of impossibility: She was in another city all day, so she _____ attended our meeting in person here.
(a) must have
(b) should have
(c) cannot have
(d) may have [1]

3(VII) Supply the correct present form of be: What she needs _____ more time, not more instructions. [1]

3(VIII) Correct the single determiner error: This packet contains less cards than the label promises. Write Error→Correction. [1]

3(IX) Choose the determiner in this emphatic warning: We cannot afford _____ delay, however short.
(a) a few
(b) many
(c) any
(d) several [1]

3(X) Correct the single reporting-verb error: The teacher told that the room was ready. No listener is named. Write Error→Correction. [1]

3(XI) Use the simple present negative of need: This suitcase _____ a new handle; the old one works perfectly. [1]

3(XII) Report using the supplied start: Leela said, "I had locked the door before the rain began." Begin: Leela said that _____. [1]

4 Formal letter [5 marks]

Attempt either A or B. Write a formal letter in 100–120 words.

4(A) You are Sana/Samir of 8 Willow Street, Nandipur. Write to the Manager of Town Hall requesting a written statement of the charges and conditions for a school reading event. Ask about deposit, cancellation, accessibility and the permitted booking period without assuming any policy. Use 100–120 words. [5]

OR

4(B) You are Kabir/Kavya, Secretary of the Language Club, Pine School, Nandipur. Write to the Principal requesting a transparent borrowing procedure for shared dictionaries. Explain a practical allocation problem and propose a fair trial and review. Use 100–120 words. [5]

5 Analytical paragraph [5 marks]

Attempt either A or B. Write an analytical paragraph in 100–120 words.

5(A) The table gives a fictional event team's tasks. B and C have separate teams and can run at the same time, but both must wait until A finishes. The project ends when all three tasks are complete. Write an analytical paragraph in 100–120 words explaining the earliest completion time, why simply adding durations misleads, and which one-day reduction would shorten the project. [5]

Task	Duration	Begins after
A: prepare script	2 days	Project starts
B: make posters	3 days	A finishes
C: rehearse	4 days	A finishes

OR

5(B) A fictional club has sixty members. Forty requested a storytelling session and thirty requested a debate session; fifteen requested both. Write an analytical paragraph in 100–120 words showing the number requesting at least one, the number requesting neither, and why adding the requests does not count distinct members correctly. [5]

Section C Literature Textbook

6 Drama or prose extract [5 marks]

Read extracts A and B. Answer ALL parts of ANY ONE extract.

Extract A

Text and source: The policy of apartheid created a deep and lasting wound in my country and my people. All of us will spend many years, if not generations, recovering from that profound hurt.
(Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom)

6(A)(I) The wound in this extract is primarily:
(a) a single untreated physical injury.
(b) damage to one building at the ceremony.
(c) a reason to deny that change has occurred.
(d) the enduring collective harm caused by apartheid. [1]

6(A)(II) Find the ONE word meaning very deep or strongly felt. [1]

6(A)(III) Which phrase extends the possible recovery period beyond the lifetime of one group of adults? [1]

6(A)(IV) In 30–40 words, explain why the extract prevents the inauguration from being read as the instant removal of every consequence of apartheid. [2]

OR

Extract B

Text and source: "What will that witless one say? She is like a dumb cow."
"May be you are right," muttered Ramlal.
In the other corner of the courtyard, Bholi lay awake on her cot, listening to her parents' whispered conversation.
(Bholi)

6(B)(I) Who hears the conversation despite the speakers' dismissive assumptions? [1]

6(B)(II) The comparison with a "dumb cow" reveals primarily:
(a) an objective assessment endorsed by the narrator.
(b) the mother's dismissive view of Bholi's ability to respond.
(c) Bholi's wish to work on a farm.
(d) Ramlal's proof that Bholi is asleep. [1]

6(B)(III) In 30–40 words, explain the effect of placing Bholi's silent listening immediately after the parents' claim that she has nothing to say. [2]

6(B)(IV) What does "muttered" suggest about how Ramlal speaks? [1]

7 Poetry extract [5 marks]

Read poetry extracts A and B. Answer ALL parts of ANY ONE extract.

Extract A

Text and source: But presently up spoke little dog Mustard,
I'd have been twice as brave if I hadn't been flustered.
And up spoke Ink and up spoke Blink,
We'd have been three times as brave, we think,
And Custard said, I quite agree
That everybody is braver than me.
(The Tale of Custard the Dragon)

7(A)(I) Who claims he would have been twice as brave? [1]

7(A)(II) The claims about greater bravery are presented as:
(a) actions the others actually performed against the pirate.
(b) conditional claims about what would have happened.
(c) instructions for building a cage.
(d) an account by the pirate of his escape. [1]

7(A)(III) Which TWO words form the rhyme in lines 3 and 4? [1]

7(A)(IV) In 30–40 words, explain how this exchange complicates the expectation that Custard's action will permanently change the group's hierarchy. [2]

OR

Extract B

Text and source: (There is a languid, emerald sea,
where the sole inhabitant is me—
a mermaid, drifting blissfully.)
(Amanda!)

7(B)(I) What imaginary identity does the speaker adopt here? [1]

7(B)(II) Which phrase most directly removes other people from this imagined space?
(a) emerald sea
(b) a mermaid
(c) drifting blissfully
(d) sole inhabitant [1]

7(B)(III) Find the ONE word meaning moving slowly without an urgent directed effort. [1]

7(B)(IV) In 30–40 words, explain how the pace and setting of this fantasy respond to the commands surrounding it. [2]

8 First Flight short response [12 marks]

Answer any FOUR of the FIVE First Flight questions in about 40–50 words each.

8(I) How does the failure of the pilot's instruments in The Black Aeroplane change what he can rely on during the storm? [3]
8(II) Why does the recommended visiting season in Coorg matter to its picture of the place rather than merely supply a date? [3]
8(III) Why is Kisa Gotami's initial request for medicine inadequate to the situation she faces? [3]
8(IV) Why does Maxwell mention the water around Camusfearna before acquiring Mijbil in Mijbil the Otter? [3]
8(V) How does the account of roots working all night make the trees' departure seem an effort rather than an effortless magical change? [3]

9 Footprints Without Feet short response [6 marks]

Answer any TWO of the THREE Footprints Without Feet questions in about 40–50 words each.
9(I) Why is Hari's failure to board the departing train important even before he returns the stolen money? [3]
9(II) How does the absence of a balcony change the reader's understanding of Max's exit in The Midnight Visitor? [3]
9(III) Why does the narrator mention the coins Griffin has stolen when describing his comfort at the inn? [3]

10 First Flight long response [6 marks]

Answer either A or B from First Flight in about 100–120 words.
10(A) Compare narrative pace in Anne's family sketch and her punishment-essay account in From the Diary of Anne Frank. [6]

OR

10(B) How does sound connect childhood memories with a surviving tradition in A Baker from Goa? [6]

11 Footprints Without Feet long response [6 marks]

Answer either A or B from Footprints Without Feet in about 100–120 words.
11(A) How does Think-Tank's opening mirror exchange establish his need for approval before directing the invasion in The Book That Saved the Earth? [6]

OR

11(B) Why does Horace's lock-opening skill fail to protect him in A Question of Trust? [6]