Examination Series Paper 13

FINAL PRODUCTION

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

English Language and Literature

Time allowed: 3 hours Maximum marks: 80

Paper ID: PA-EXAM-CBSE184-C10-2026-27-PAPER13

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) A teacher describing a library as a garden is not asking pupils to water the shelves. The comparison invites them to notice something through another familiar experience: books may offer possibilities that develop through attention, just as plants need care to grow. A metaphor can make an unfamiliar idea approachable by giving the reader a starting point. Its usefulness comes from a chosen relationship, not from making the two things identical in every respect.

(2) This selectiveness is easy to forget. If a project is described as a race, speed and finishing positions may become especially prominent. Yet some projects require participants to revise their purpose or help one another rather than arrive first. The metaphor can illuminate one aspect while drawing attention away from another. Asking what the comparison highlights, and what it leaves out, can be more useful than simply deciding whether it is clever.

(3) Familiar comparisons also carry different associations for different readers. A journey may suggest adventure to one person and exhaustion to another. The writer cannot control every memory a word awakens, but can give enough context to guide the intended connection. A comparison that seems immediately clear to its maker may need explanation for an audience with different experiences. Familiarity should be checked rather than assumed merely because a phrase is common in one classroom.

(4) A metaphor can be revised when its limits become troublesome. A group that has called its project a race might try thinking of it as a workshop instead, bringing experiment and shared effort into focus. The new comparison will also have limits; changing the image does not produce a description free of choices. What matters is whether the image helps people examine the issue instead of preventing them from seeing features that do not fit.

(5) Readers need not treat every mismatch as proof that a metaphor has failed. The library remains unlike a garden in many obvious ways, and recognising those differences can clarify what the original comparison was meant to do. However, a metaphor should not be used as evidence for a claim it merely makes imaginable. Calling an idea a seed does not prove that it will grow, nor does calling an argument a building establish that it is sound. The image may begin a useful enquiry, but reasons must still support the conclusion. Careful reading keeps the imaginative connection available while resisting the temptation to make it answer questions beyond its reach.

1(I) What is the purpose of comparing a library to a garden?
(a) To require identical treatment of shelves and plants.
(b) To offer a selected connection through a familiar experience.
(c) To prove that every book develops automatically.
(d) To replace the need to read any books. [1]

1(II) Which TWO features become prominent when a project is described as a race? [1]

1(III) Find the ONE word in paragraph 2 meaning make something clearer or easier to understand. [1]

1(IV) In 30–40 words, explain why a familiar metaphor may not be equally clear to every audience. [2]

1(V) What can replacing race with workshop change?
(a) It removes every limitation from language.
(b) It proves that the project needs no decisions.
(c) It brings experimentation and shared effort into focus.
(d) It guarantees every participant's agreement. [1]

1(VI) TRUE or FALSE: Any difference between a library and a garden necessarily destroys the comparison. [1]

1(VII) Which response best distinguishes an imaginative suggestion from evidence?
(a) Calling the idea a seed proves it must succeed.
(b) A strong-sounding image needs no reasons.
(c) Every metaphor is a literal scientific result.
(d) The seed image suggests growth, but reasons are still needed to predict success. [1]

1(VIII) In 30–40 words, explain how examining what a metaphor leaves out can improve a discussion. [2]

2 Reading comprehension [10 marks]

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

(1) A fictional school repair desk listed five requests on Friday. For completed requests, the table gives the full number of days between receipt and completion. For open requests, it gives the number of days already elapsed by Friday. An open request has not yet been completed. The desk records whole days using one consistent local counting method, and each row represents a different request.

(2) Staff calculated an average only for the three completed requests: two days, one day and one day. That average describes completed work in this small record. It cannot automatically describe all five requests, because the two open cases have already waited longer and their final completion times are unknown. Their elapsed times are lower bounds on how long the full process will take, not finished durations that can be treated in the same way as the other three.

(3) The desk wants a fair summary without pretending that unfinished cases have disappeared. It can state how many requests are complete, report their durations and separately describe the age of the open cases. Later it can add their completion dates. The record does not identify the cause of delay, the complexity of a repair or whether materials are available. It therefore cannot by itself establish that a particular person has worked carelessly.

Request	Days recorded by Friday	Status
A	2	Completed
B	1	Completed
C	5	Open
D	3	Open
E	1	Completed
Scope	Five distinct requests	One local counting method

2(I) How many requests are completed by Friday? [1]

2(II) Which request has been open for the longest recorded period?
(a) C
(b) A
(c) D
(d) E [1]

2(III) Calculate the average duration of the three completed requests as an exact fraction. [1]

2(IV) For open request C, five days represents:
(a) its confirmed final completion time.
(b) a guarantee that it will finish tomorrow.
(c) a lower bound on the eventual full duration.
(d) proof that the repair was simple. [1]

2(V) In 30–40 words, explain why the completed-case average should not be reported as the average duration of all five repairs. [2]

2(VI) What proportion of the five requests remains open? [1]

2(VII) Can the table prove that request C was completed in five days? Answer YES or NO. [1]

2(VIII) Name ONE missing factor that could affect the time needed for a repair. [1]

2(IX) Which summary preserves the distinction between completed and unfinished work?
(a) All five repairs took one day.
(b) Report three completed durations and the separate elapsed ages of the two open requests.
(c) Discard C and D because they are inconvenient.
(d) Call every recorded value a final completion time. [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 present continuous passive: Traffic is diverted because the bridge _____ right now.
(a) has repaired
(b) was repairing
(c) will repair
(d) is being repaired [1]

3(II) Use the simple past of meet in the since-clause: It has been ten years since we first _____. [1]

3(III) Choose the phrase requiring no extra article before the possessive: This is _____ first published poem.
(a) the her
(b) her the
(c) her
(d) a her [1]

3(IV) Choose the correct present forms of have for both blanks: A number of pupils _____ registered, but the number of available seats _____ fallen. [1]

3(V) Report the permission request with conventional backshift: Ravi asked the teacher, “May I leave early?” Begin: Ravi asked the teacher whether _____. [1]

3(VI) Choose the form for a past STATE that no longer holds: In the past, there _____ be a pond here, but the site is now a car park.
(a) used to
(b) ought to
(c) can
(d) will [1]

3(VII) Correct the single agreement error: These criteria is listed separately in the instructions. Write Error→Correction. [1]

3(VIII) Supply the missing word: All _____ us have signed the register. [1]

3(IX) Choose the interrogative word selecting within a known pair: _____ of these two routes should we take?
(a) Whom
(b) Which
(c) Whose
(d) Who [1]

3(X) Rewrite the condition using unless without changing the meaning: If you do not submit the form, your place will not be reserved. Begin: Unless _____. [1]

3(XI) Use the present perfect negative of finish after yet: The teams _____ their discussion yet; please give them another minute. [1]

3(XII) Report both clauses with conventional backshift: The teacher said, "I am checking the drafts, and I will return them tomorrow." Begin: The teacher said that _____; change tomorrow to the next day. [1]

4 Formal letter [5 marks]

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

4(A) You are Anaya/Anant, Secretary of the Literary Society, Hillcrest School, Suryapur. Write a formal reply declining an invitation to participate in an inter-school reading event because of a confirmed school examination. Express appreciation, explain the scheduling conflict and request information about a future event. Use 100–120 words. [5]

OR

4(B) You are Ria/Rishabh of Class 10, Greenway School, Suryapur. Write to the Principal requesting correction of a misspelt name on a participation certificate. Give fictional event details, identify the correction and ask about the procedure without demanding alteration of unrelated records. 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 scores from three different fictional tests. Write an analytical paragraph in 100–120 words comparing raw scores and percentages. Explain why converting to percentages still does not prove that the tests were equally difficult or that the candidates have identical ability. [5]

Candidate	Score obtained	Maximum score
A	18	20
B	32	40
C	27	30

OR

5(B) An original fictional notice says: The workshop has moved from Tuesday to Friday. The room will be confirmed later. Existing registrations remain valid. Draft A reports that the workshop is cancelled and everyone must register again. Draft B reports postponement to Friday, an unconfirmed room and continuing validity of registrations. Write an analytical paragraph in 100–120 words comparing their accuracy and likely effect on readers. [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 postmaster — a fat, amiable fellow — also broke out laughing, but almost immediately he turned serious and, tapping the letter on his desk, commented, "What faith! I wish I had the faith of the man who wrote this letter. Starting up a correspondence with God!"
(A Letter to God)

6(A)(I) What change happens almost immediately after the postmaster laughs?
(a) He turns serious.
(b) He destroys the letter.
(c) He leaves for Lencho's field.
(d) He asks Lencho to stop writing forever. [1]

6(A)(II) What does "amiable" mean? [1]

6(A)(III) Which words show that the postmaster desires a quality he sees in the writer? [1]

6(A)(IV) In 30–40 words, explain why the initial laughter should not be treated as the postmaster's final attitude. [2]

OR

Extract B

Text and source: It was the first time this important scientific journal had ever published the work of college students. In sports, that would be like making the big leagues at the age of fifteen and hitting a home run your first time at bat.
(The Making of a Scientist)

6(B)(I) Whose scientific work is being introduced in this opening? [1]

6(B)(II) The sports comparison primarily helps readers appreciate:
(a) that Ebright changed careers to baseball.
(b) the exceptional early achievement in publication.
(c) that a scientific article is scored in runs.
(d) that publication guarantees every later theory is correct. [1]

6(B)(III) In 30–40 words, explain how the sports comparison helps a non-specialist appreciate the publication milestone without proving the theory correct. [2]

6(B)(IV) What does "the first time" establish about the journal in this account? [1]

7 Poetry extract [5 marks]

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

Extract A

Text and source: What is the boy now, who has lost his ball,
What, what is he to do? I saw it go
Merrily bouncing, down the street, and then
Merrily over — there it is in the water!
(The Ball Poem)

7(A)(I) Where does the ball end up in these lines? [1]

7(A)(II) Repeating "What, what" chiefly conveys:
(a) a calm list of replacement prices.
(b) a precise instruction to dive.
(c) uncertainty about how the boy can respond.
(d) a promise that the ball will return. [1]

7(A)(III) Which word is repeated to describe the ball's movement? [1]

7(A)(IV) In 30–40 words, explain the contrast between the ball's movement and the boy's response described later in the poem. [2]

OR

Extract B

Text and source: The fog comes
on little cat feet.
It sits looking
over harbour and city
on silent haunches
and then moves on.
(Fog)

7(B)(I) Name the TWO verbs that contrast a resting posture with subsequent departure. [1]

7(B)(II) Which feature of the poem's form can be observed directly?
(a) A regular sequence of rhyming couplets.
(b) Exactly equal line lengths throughout.
(c) A repeated four-line chorus after each stanza.
(d) Short lines of unequal length without a regular end-rhyme pattern. [1]

7(B)(III) Does the poem introduce the cat comparison with the word like? Answer YES or NO. [1]

7(B)(IV) In 30–40 words, explain how the single cat image holds the poem's different moments together. [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 dated diary form shape Anne's account of the approaching promotion decision? [3]

8(II) What does the pilot's comparison of himself with an obedient child reveal while he follows the black aeroplane? [3]

8(III) What does the smoking building add to the view of tea country in Tea from Assam? [3]

8(IV) What changes when the speaker says Listen in The Trees? [3]

8(V) What does being thrown into despair suggest about the young man's control of his feelings in the opening of For Anne Gregory? [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 can the report sought by Max drive The Midnight Visitor even though readers never examine its contents? [3]

9(II) What do Loisel's actions immediately after the loss reveal about his response to the crisis? [3]

9(III) How do the classroom pictures give Bholi a point of connection with an unfamiliar school? [3]

10 First Flight long response [6 marks]

Answer either A or B from First Flight in about 100–120 words.

10(A) Compare how waiting functions in Valli's preparation and Anne's account of the promotion decision. [6]

OR

10(B) How do the two flying stories connect limited knowledge with the reader's experience, in different ways? [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) Compare the role of apparent authority in Horace's encounter with the young woman and the Martians' dealings with Think-Tank. [6]

OR

11(B) How does the comparison of Bholi's teacher with an artist illuminate the ending without making Bholi a passive object? [6]