Examination Series Paper 05

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-PAPER05

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) Waiting is often described as empty time, yet a queue can reveal how a public service treats people. A fair system does not necessarily make every person wait for exactly the same number of minutes. A visitor who needs a short enquiry and someone completing a complicated application may require different amounts of assistance. Fairness begins with a clear rule that explains how places are assigned and how exceptions are handled. Without that explanation, even a sensible arrangement can look like favouritism.

(2) Consider a counter that serves people in order of arrival but also gives priority to emergencies. A person moving ahead may be following the rule rather than breaking it. The staff should explain the existence of that exception without exposing private details about another visitor. Transparency concerns the procedure; it need not require a public account of someone's illness or personal difficulty. A notice can describe the categories of priority while leaving individual circumstances confidential.

(3) A numbered token helps people keep their place without standing continuously. It can particularly assist someone who needs to sit down. However, replacing a visible line with tokens creates a new responsibility: people must know when and where their numbers are called. An announcement that is only spoken may fail a person who cannot hear it. A display that is only visual may fail someone who cannot see it clearly. Multiple ways of communicating can make the same rule accessible to more people.

(4) Publishing an expected waiting time is useful only if its uncertainty is understood. An estimate is not a promise. One unusually complex case can delay later appointments, and a second counter opening can reduce the delay. Staff can explain why an estimate changed rather than pretend the earlier number was exact. Recording such changes can also help managers identify recurring problems, although a single difficult morning is insufficient evidence that the whole service always fails.

(5) Finally, a complaints route should be visible before frustration becomes a confrontation at the counter. Someone who believes a rule was applied wrongly needs a way to request a review. That route should not require the person to abandon the original application. Fair waiting therefore involves more than an orderly line: it combines a stated procedure, respectful exceptions, accessible communication and a means of challenging mistakes. The quality of a queue is measured partly by what people understand and can do while they are in it, not simply by how straight it looks.

1(I) Which statement best represents the passage's central claim?
(a) Fairness means identical service time for everyone.
(b) A straight line is sufficient evidence of fairness.
(c) Fair waiting depends on rules, access and accountability.
(d) Every exception should reveal private personal details. [1]

1(II) What does a token allow a visitor to preserve without standing continuously? [1]

1(III) Find the ONE word in paragraph 1 meaning unfair preference for particular people. [1]

1(IV) In 30–40 words, explain how staff can be transparent about priority without violating privacy. [2]

1(V) Why does the writer recommend both spoken and visual calls?
(a) To make the queue move in two directions.
(b) To accommodate different communication needs.
(c) To replace all numbered tokens.
(d) To prevent every change in waiting time. [1]

1(VI) TRUE or FALSE: An estimated waiting time guarantees an exact appointment time. [1]

1(VII) Which evidence would be insufficient for the claim that a service always fails?
(a) Repeated records across several months.
(b) A consistent series of missed targets.
(c) Several independently checked complaints.
(d) One unusually difficult morning. [1]

1(VIII) In 30–40 words, explain why a complaints route should not require abandoning the original application. [2]

2 Reading comprehension [10 marks]

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

(1) A fictional school tested how its library's new coloured shelf labels affected a search task. The same twenty volunteers took part on Monday and Friday. Each was asked to find one book from a prepared list. The table shows how many volunteers completed the task within five minutes, needed longer, or did not finish during the ten-minute observation period. Each volunteer appears once in each day's total, and the three outcome categories are mutually exclusive.

(2) On Friday, the shelf labels were present, but this was not the only difference. Volunteers had already visited the room on Monday and had practised the type of task. The selected books were different, although staff tried to choose equally difficult locations. No separate group repeated the task without the new labels. The results therefore describe an improvement in this group; they do not isolate the labels as its sole cause.

(3) Staff plan a follow-up with two comparable groups. One will use the new labels and the other will use the old arrangement during the same week. Instructions and search difficulty will be matched as closely as possible. Staff will also record comments about readability. A colour that appears distinct to one reader may not appear equally distinct to another. Completion time is one useful outcome, but a service intended for everyone should investigate which readers still face difficulty.

Outcome	Monday	Friday
Within five minutes	8	13
More than five minutes	7	5
Not completed	5	2
Total volunteers	20	20
Observation limit	10 minutes	10 minutes
Shelf labels	Old arrangement	New colours

2(I) How many more volunteers finished within five minutes on Friday than on Monday? [1]

2(II) Which outcome decreased by three volunteers?
(a) Within five minutes.
(b) More than five minutes.
(c) Not completed.
(d) Total participation. [1]

2(III) What percentage of Friday's volunteers completed within five minutes? [1]

2(IV) Which detail weakens a claim that only the labels caused improvement?
(a) The same volunteers had already practised the task.
(b) The outcome categories exclude one another.
(c) Each day included twenty volunteers.
(d) The staff used a ten-minute observation limit. [1]

2(V) In 30–40 words, explain why the follow-up design could give a stronger comparison. [2]

2(VI) How many volunteers completed the task at all on Monday? [1]

2(VII) Why should the follow-up collect comments about readability as well as times? [1]

2(VIII) How many times does each volunteer appear in a single day's outcome total? [1]

2(IX) Which is the most defensible summary?
(a) The trial proves all readers prefer colour.
(b) The observed group improved, but causes require further testing.
(c) The labels made every volunteer finish within five minutes.
(d) The follow-up has already established a final result. [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 tense convention used for a published future timetable: According to the schedule, the last ferry _____ at eight tomorrow.
(a) departed
(b) has departed
(c) departs
(d) had departed [1]

3(II) Complete with the present perfect of know: I _____ Nira for three years, and we remain close friends. [1]

3(III) Choose the determiner meaning a small but positive quantity: There is _____ time left, so we can answer one more question.
(a) little
(b) a little
(c) many
(d) a few [1]

3(IV) Correct the single error: The quality of these labels depend on the ink. Write Error→Correction. [1]

3(V) Asha and the person reporting her words are the two selected pupils. Report using conventional backshift: Asha said to me, “We are both selected.” Begin: Asha told me that _____. [1]

3(VI) Choose the modal expressing a polite request for permission: _____ I look at the register, please?
(a) Must
(b) Should
(c) Would
(d) May [1]

3(VII) Complete with the correct present form of be: The United Nations _____ an international organisation. [1]

3(VIII) Correct the single error: She asked whether did I need assistance. Write Error→Correction. [1]

3(IX) Choose the determiner that makes the meaning negative: There is _____ evidence to support the rumour; none has been found.
(a) some
(b) much
(c) no
(d) several [1]

3(X) Correct the single error: Two-thirds of the water have already drained away. Write Error→Correction. [1]

3(XI) Correct the tense error in this future time clause: When the guests will arrive tomorrow, we will welcome them. Write Error→Correction. [1]

3(XII) Report the statement while retaining the present tense for a continuing general truth: The teacher said, "The Earth moves around the Sun." Begin: The teacher 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 Nila/Nil of 6 Station Road, Arundale. Write to the Manager of the Community Service Centre requesting a clear token display and spoken announcements. Explain the difficulty faced by visitors and suggest a practical trial. Use 100–120 words. [5]

OR

4(B) You are Arun/Aruna, Secretary of the Heritage Club, Valley School, Arundale. Write to the Station Manager, Town Railway Station, enquiring about a labelled folder of exhibition notes left in the waiting room after a club visit. Give fictional identifying details and ask about the lost-property and collection procedure without claiming it has been found. 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) A school delivery team compares the three routes in the table. Its priority is to arrive within 30 minutes while keeping distance as low as possible. Write an analytical paragraph in 100–120 words comparing the routes, recommending one and identifying a limitation of the data. [5]

Delivery route	Distance (km)	Time (minutes)
A	4	35
B	6	25
C	5	30

OR

5(B) A school exhibition must choose between Venue X and Venue Y. X is free, seats 80 and requires a staircase. Y costs INR 1500, seats 60 and has step-free access. Expected attendance is 55 and the available budget is INR 2000. Write an analytical paragraph in 100–120 words recommending a venue under these stated needs, while acknowledging an unmeasured condition. [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 class roared. I had to laugh too, though I'd nearly exhausted my ingenuity on the topic of chatterboxes. It was time to come up with something else, something original. My friend, Sanne, who's good at poetry, offered to help me write the essay from beginning to end in verse and I jumped for joy.
(From the Diary of Anne Frank)

6(A)(I) Who offers assistance with the verse essay? [1]

6(A)(II) What does "nearly exhausted my ingenuity" suggest?
(a) Anne has no writing materials.
(b) Anne has used many of her inventive ideas on this topic.
(c) Anne has decided never to attend school again.
(d) Anne cannot recognise a joke. [1]

6(A)(III) Which form will the new essay take? [1]

6(A)(IV) In 30–40 words, explain why Sanne's offer changes Anne's response to the assignment. [2]

OR

Extract B

Text and source: Brilliant scientist though he was, Griffin was rather a lawless person. His landlord disliked him and tried to eject him. In revenge Griffin set fire to the house. To get away without being seen he had to remove his clothes.
(Footprints without Feet)

6(B)(I) What motive does the narrator explicitly assign to Griffin's fire-setting? [1]

6(B)(II) The opening concession distinguishes scientific brilliance from:
(a) the weather in London.
(b) the landlord's ownership of furniture.
(c) ethical or lawful conduct.
(d) the number of footprints on the steps. [1]

6(B)(III) In 30–40 words, explain why the reference to removing clothes matters to Griffin's escape. [2]

6(B)(IV) Which ONE word directly judges Griffin's behaviour as outside the law? [1]

7 Poetry extract [5 marks]

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

Extract A

Text and source: (I am an orphan, roaming the street.
I pattern soft dust with my hushed, bare feet.
The silence is golden, the freedom is sweet.)
(Amanda!)

7(A)(I) Whose imagined voice is heard inside the brackets? [1]

7(A)(II) What does "hushed" contribute to this imagined scene?
(a) An atmosphere of loud public celebration.
(b) A sense of quiet movement without disturbance.
(c) A command to begin a race.
(d) A warning that the street is flooded. [1]

7(A)(III) Name the TWO conditions the final line values. [1]

7(A)(IV) In 30–40 words, explain why these lines should not be treated as a factual statement that Amanda has no parents. [2]

OR

Extract B

Text and source: Custard the dragon had big sharp teeth,
And spikes on top of him and scales underneath,
Mouth like a fireplace, chimney for a nose,
And realio, trulio daggers on his toes.
(The Tale of Custard the Dragon)

7(B)(I) Which body part is compared with a fireplace? [1]

7(B)(II) The description primarily makes Custard appear:
(a) physically formidable.
(b) small enough to be invisible.
(c) incapable of movement.
(d) made entirely of household furniture. [1]

7(B)(III) What weapon supplies the comparison for the claws on his toes? [1]

7(B)(IV) In 30–40 words, explain the effect of combining dangerous features with "realio, trulio". [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) What does Lencho's comparison with a plague of locusts convey about his assessment of the hailstorm's damage? [3]

8(II) How do the military aircraft formations at Mandela's inauguration connect the present ceremony with a changed political past? [3]

8(III) What does the pilot's wish for an English breakfast reveal about his judgement before entering the storm in The Black Aeroplane? [3]

8(IV) How does the Goan baker's distinctive dress function as evidence of his place in local memory? [3]

8(V) How does the distinction between the smiling hyena and weeping crocodile parody a serious guide to identifying animals? [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 the large collection of belongings sent with Tricki comic in relation to the treatment he actually needs? [3]

9(II) Why does the waiter's ordinary arrival have different meanings for Max and for the reader at the end of The Midnight Visitor? [3]

9(III) Why does Ebright's disappointment with butterfly tagging not amount to abandoning scientific enquiry? [3]

10 First Flight long response [6 marks]

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

10(A) Discuss how the conductor's humour and Valli's insistence on adult treatment shape their interaction in Madam Rides the Bus. [6]

OR

10(B) How does the final stanza of For Anne Gregory frame its claim about love through reported authority? Explain the effect of the old man, the religious text and the speaking voice, without treating the poem as scientific proof. [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) Assess how Horace's annual pattern of theft exposes a contradiction in the respectable identity he maintains in A Question of Trust. [6]

OR

11(B) Explain how Bholi's response to the school picture book develops the connection between learning and a future she can imagine. [6]