Examination Series Paper 12

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) An index at the back of a book can look like a simple list of words followed by page numbers. Making a useful one, however, requires more than collecting every word that appears. A reader looking for ways to care for a plant may search under watering, although the relevant pages discuss moisture without using that exact word. The index must anticipate a question and provide a route towards its answer. It is an arrangement for finding, not a miniature copy of the whole book.

(2) The task begins with deciding what deserves an entry. A passing mention of a town may be less useful than a sustained discussion of how that town changed. Listing both without distinction can send readers through many pages that do not answer their question. Subentries can separate different aspects of a broad topic, allowing the reader to choose a more precise route. Extra detail is helpful when it makes a distinction usable, not merely when it makes the list longer.

(3) Different terms for the same subject create another difficulty. A beginner may use an everyday expression while a specialist expects a technical one. Cross-references can connect those approaches without requiring both readers to guess the indexer's preferred vocabulary. At the same time, two identical words may refer to different things. An entry for a bank may concern a financial institution or the edge of a river. A useful index must sometimes separate what looks the same and connect what looks different.

(4) Page references need checking after the book's layout is settled. A new illustration or a longer paragraph can move later material, leaving an earlier reference incorrect. The problem is practical rather than decorative: a precise-looking number may direct someone to the wrong place. Checking should include following the route as a reader would, rather than merely confirming that every entry has a number beside it. A complete-looking list can still fail its purpose.

(5) Finally, an index offers choices rather than controlling the reader's whole journey. Someone may follow a reference, find an unexpected connection and continue elsewhere. The indexer cannot predict every interest, but can reduce avoidable barriers by using clear terms, useful distinctions and dependable references. Testing a few searches with readers who do not already know the book can reveal assumptions that its makers overlook. The best evidence of usefulness is not how impressive the index looks on its own. It is whether people can use it to reach material that addresses the questions they actually bring.

1(I) Why might an entry under watering be useful even when the discussion uses moisture?
(a) A reader may approach the subject through a different term.
(b) Every word must appear on every page.
(c) Page numbers replace the need for subjects.
(d) The two words must always mean exactly the same thing. [1]

1(II) What distinction could prevent a passing mention from being treated like a substantial discussion? [1]

1(III) Find the ONE word in paragraph 3 meaning a person with expert knowledge in a field. [1]

1(IV) In 30–40 words, explain how an index may need both to connect different-looking terms and separate identical-looking ones. [2]

1(V) Why should page references be checked after layout is settled?
(a) An illustration can never affect pagination.
(b) A page number is only decoration.
(c) Later layout changes can move the relevant material.
(d) An index must prevent all unexpected reading. [1]

1(VI) TRUE or FALSE: An entry with a number beside it is necessarily a useful entry. [1]

1(VII) Which test best follows the final paragraph?
(a) Ask only whether the list looks long.
(b) Let unfamiliar readers try searches for their own questions.
(c) Remove every cross-reference.
(d) Require all readers to follow the same journey. [1]

1(VIII) In 30–40 words, explain why the index is described as offering choices rather than controlling the reader's journey. [2]

2 Reading comprehension [10 marks]

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

(1) A fictional club asked sixty members to rank three activities, A, B and C. The table groups identical responses and shows each group's size, first choice and second choice. Every member ranked all three activities, and no activity appears twice on a person's ballot. The activity not shown in the first two positions is therefore that person's third choice. No member is omitted or counted twice.

(2) The club is comparing two possible rules before making a decision. Under Rule One, only first choices count, and the activity with the largest number wins; this need not be more than half the members. Under Rule Two, each activity receives one support point whenever it appears in a member's first or second position. Both positions count equally under this rule. These are local rules for the fictional exercise, not official election procedures.

(3) The same responses can produce different winners because the rules reward different things. One identifies the most frequent first preference; the other counts a broader level of acceptability. The committee should state its rule before announcing a winner and explain what the resulting total means. The ballots do not establish costs, available equipment or whether any activity can be held at the required time. Those practical questions need separate information before a programme is confirmed.

Members in group	First choice	Second choice
20	A	B
15	B	C
10	C	A
8	A	C
7	C	B
Total: 60	All rank A, B, C	No duplicate members

2(I) How many members place A first? [1]

2(II) Which activity wins under Rule One?
(a) C
(b) B
(c) None can win without more than 30 votes.
(d) A [1]

2(III) How many members place C first? [1]

2(IV) Under Rule Two, the twenty members in the first row contribute support to:
(a) A only.
(b) A and B equally.
(c) B and C equally.
(d) C only. [1]

2(V) In 30–40 words, explain why A's Rule One victory does not mean that more than half the members ranked it first. [2]

2(VI) Calculate B's Rule Two support total. [1]

2(VII) Which activity wins under Rule Two? [1]

2(VIII) Which activity is third for the fifteen members who rank B first and C second? [1]

2(IX) Which conclusion is NOT established by the ballots?
(a) A has 28 first choices.
(b) B has 42 support points under Rule Two.
(c) The winning activity can be held with the available equipment.
(d) There are 60 distinct members. [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 future-in-the-past expression of an interrupted intention: I _____ leave when the telephone rang, so I stayed to answer it.
(a) have been about to
(b) am about to
(c) will be about to
(d) was about to [1]

3(II) Complete with the simple present of tell in this performative statement: By this letter I hereby _____ you that I accept the invitation. [1]

3(III) Choose the determiner granting unrestricted choice of ONE item: All these pens work; take _____ pen you like.
(a) any
(b) every
(c) both
(d) much [1]

3(IV) Use the present form of be, treating the committee as one decision-making body: The committee _____ unanimous in its decision. [1]

3(V) Report the suggestion; the reporter belongs to the group: The captain said, “Let us begin.” Begin: The captain suggested that we _____. [1]

3(VI) Choose the modal expression specifically showing lack of courage, rather than prohibition, lack of necessity or refusal: He _____ contradict the angry speaker.
(a) must not
(b) dare not
(c) need not
(d) will not [1]

3(VII) Correct the single agreement error: The results, not the method, was questioned. Write Error→Correction. [1]

3(VIII) Correct the quantity expression: There are too much chairs in the room. Write Error→Correction. [1]

3(IX) Choose the phrase that fits before the possessive: We used _____ our allotted time.
(a) the half
(b) half of
(c) every of
(d) many of [1]

3(X) Report the alternative question without losing the choice: The host asked me, “Do you prefer tea or coffee?” Begin: The host asked me _____. [1]

3(XI) Use the future perfect of be: By next January, she _____ a member for ten years. [1]

3(XII) Report, keeping Maya as the person who may need help: Ram said to Sita, “I will help Maya if she needs me.” Begin: Ram told Sita that _____. [1]

4 Formal letter [5 marks]

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

4(A) You are Mira/Mihir, Secretary of the Library Club, Stonebridge School, Palashpur. Write to the Principal requesting a student-made index for the school’s local-history booklet. Explain how entries will be selected, checked and tested before use. Use 100–120 words. [5]

OR

4(B) You are Arjun/Aruna of 9 Palm Enclave, Palashpur. Write to the Customer Services Manager of Readwell Subscriptions about a change of delivery address that has not been reflected in dispatch records. Give fictional references and request confirmation of the effective date. 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 three fictional draft notices for one meeting. A final notice must provide day, time, place and a clear response instruction with a deadline. Write an analytical paragraph in 100–120 words comparing completeness and identifying the information still needed rather than inventing it. [5]

Notice	Meeting details	Action requested
A	Monday, 2 pm, Room 4	Attend
B	Monday, 2 pm	Reply to confirm
C	Monday, Room 4	Reply by Friday

OR

5(B) A fictional library gives every returned book a quick check, but only damaged books receive a detailed check. One week it records eighty quick checks and twelve detailed checks. Write an analytical paragraph in 100–120 words explaining why ninety-two checks do not mean ninety-two different books, and what can and cannot be inferred. [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: MIDWAY between Mysore and the coastal town of Mangalore sits a piece of heaven that must have drifted from the kingdom of god. This land of rolling hills is inhabited by a proud race of martial men, beautiful women and wild creatures.
(Coorg)

6(A)(I) Which two places frame the location in the opening sentence?
(a) Delhi and Basra.
(b) Mysore and Mangalore.
(c) Paris and Benares.
(d) Goa and London. [1]

6(A)(II) What feature gives the land its undulating appearance? [1]

6(A)(III) What does “martial” mean here? [1]

6(A)(IV) In 30–40 words, explain the effect of describing Coorg as a piece of heaven that has drifted to earth. [2]

OR

Extract B

Text and source: OMEGA: Nothing, sir. Perhaps we are not on the correct frequency.
IOTA: Nothing, sir. Perhaps the Earthlings have sharper ears than we do.
OOP: I don't hear a thing. Maybe these sandwiches don't make sounds.
(The Book That Saved the Earth)

6(B)(I) What are the objects incorrectly called sandwiches in this scene? [1]

6(B)(II) Whose suggestion most directly questions whether the objects produce sound at all?
(a) Think-Tank's.
(b) Iota's.
(c) Oop's.
(d) Omega's. [1]

6(B)(III) In 30–40 words, contrast Oop's suggestion with the other two explanations. [2]

6(B)(IV) Which word in Iota's line marks the explanation as a possibility rather than a certainty? [1]

7 Poetry extract [5 marks]

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

Extract A

Text and source: Stop that sulking at once, Amanda!
You're always so moody, Amanda!
Anyone would think that I nagged at you,
Amanda!
(Amanda!)

7(A)(I) Who is being addressed in this stanza? [1]

7(A)(II) Which word generalises the charge of moodiness beyond this one moment?
(a) once
(b) Anyone
(c) think
(d) always [1]

7(A)(III) What behaviour does the speaker order Amanda to stop? [1]

7(A)(IV) In 30–40 words, explain the irony of the speaker worrying that anyone might think Amanda is being nagged. [2]

OR

Extract B

Text and source: The night is fresh, the whole moon shines
in a sky still open
the smell of leaves and lichen
still reaches like a voice into the rooms.
(The Trees)

7(B)(I) Which TWO things produce the smell named here? [1]

7(B)(II) "Like a voice" creates a comparison between:
(a) smell and an audible human expression.
(b) a moon and a clinical instrument.
(c) a room and a mountain.
(d) a letter and a broken root. [1]

7(B)(III) Where does the smell reach? [1]

7(B)(IV) In 30–40 words, explain how the smell allows the trees' presence to be felt inside during their departure. [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) Why does Mandela attach symbolic importance to groups singing an anthem they had previously despised? [3]

8(II) How does the air hostess's response to Mij's escape differ from the panic around him? [3]

8(III) How does Valli turn casual conversation into preparation for her bus journey? [3]

8(IV) How do the names Ink, Blink, Mustard and Custard contribute to the poem's sound and comic character? [3]

8(V) How does the nine-line form of Fire and Ice contrast with the scale of its subject? [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 does the clean dress before Bholi's first school visit reveal neglect as well as a new possibility? [3]

9(II) How does Ebright's work with James R. Wong complicate the image of scientific insight as purely solitary? [3]

9(III) Why is Horace's anger at talk of honour among thieves ironic? [3]

10 First Flight long response [6 marks]

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

10(A) Compare Amanda's inward fantasies with Anne's written response to Keesing as ways of responding to adult correction. [6]

OR

10(B) Assess Chubukov's role as a participant in the quarrels and a promoter of the marriage agreement in The Proposal. Why is he more than a neutral peacemaker? [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 how withheld and unequal knowledge create different effects in The Midnight Visitor and The Book That Saved the Earth. [6]

OR

11(B) What is the significance of the narration returning to the name Sulekha near the end of Bholi? [6]