

SOLVED

CBSE Latest Sample Question Paper (2027)

Time Allowed : 3 Hours

Maximum Marks : 80

General Instructions:

Read the instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. This question paper comprises **11** questions. **All** questions are compulsory.
2. The question paper contains **THREE** sections:
Section A : Reading Skills
Section B : Grammar and Creative Writing Skills
Section C : Literature Textbook
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION A

READING SKILLS

(20 Marks)

1. Read the following text.

10

1. Have you ever really looked at a toy store shelf and wondered what you're actually looking at? Rows upon rows of plastic products – bright, shiny, and visually appealing. We barely question them anymore. But here's a question worth asking: does the type of toy we choose really matter? The answer might surprise you. It turns out that choosing between a conventional plastic toy and an eco-friendly alternative is about far more than just grabbing something off the shelf.
2. Let's be honest – plastic toys are everywhere. They've been the default choice for generations, and there's a reason: they're affordable, they're designed to grab attention, and they work. However, what exactly are we getting when we buy a mass-produced plastic toy? Often, we're getting something made with chemicals like BPA* and lead, substances that make manufacturing cheaper. These aren't just abstract risks floating in the background. They're real concerns that affect real people, especially children who interact with these toys daily.
3. This is precisely why eco-friendly toys matter so much. Crafted from organic cotton, sustainable wood, and recycled materials, they ask a fundamental question: what if toys could be safe, engaging, and environmentally responsible all at once? When we choose these alternatives, we're not just buying a toy – we're making a statement about what we value.
4. Ever noticed how a wooden block can keep a child entertained for hours, while some plastic gadget loses its appeal in minutes? There's a reason for that. Eco-friendly toys often engage children's minds differently. Natural materials offer something special – rich textures, varied tactile experiences, and a kind of sensory richness that engages the brain in deeper ways. A wooden building set doesn't just entertain; it challenges children to think, problem-solve, and create. It demands imagination in a way that pre-programmed, plastic alternatives never can.

**BPA: Bisphenol A, a chemical used primarily in the production of plastic items*

5. Think about the typical lifespan of a plastic toy. It breaks, it ends up in landfills, and it's replaced. Eco-friendly toys, however, are designed to survive. They're built to last years, to be passed along, to become keepsakes rather than waste. This durability speaks volumes about the difference between toys made purely for profit and toys made with purpose.
6. Ultimately, the choice between conventional and eco-friendly toys reflects something deeper: how we think about consumption itself. Do we want a world where toys are disposable trinkets, or do we want objects that matter – that are safe, engaging, and kind to the planet? It's not just about toys. It's about the choices we make every single day and what those choices say about who we are and what kind of future we're building.

Created for academic usage / 435 words

Answer the following questions based on the passage above.

10

- (i) In Paragraph 1, what does the phrase 'rows upon rows of plastic products' emphasise? 1
- (ii) Complete the following with the correct option from the two given. 1
When the writer says, 'These aren't just abstract risks floating in the background', he refers to (Paragraph 2)
 - (a) the potential health hazards present in mass-produced plastic toys that consumers often ignore or are unaware of.
 - (b) the general concerns about toy safety that exist in society but don't directly affect individual purchasing decisions.
- (iii) The writer mentions, 'organic cotton, sustainable wood, and recycled materials' in Paragraph 3. 1
Which of the following is an example of 'recycled material'?
 - (a) Hand spun clothes certified by environmental organisations
 - (b) Cotton grown without pesticides or synthetic fertilisers
 - (c) Plastic bottles processed and converted into shoes
 - (d) Wood treated with chemical preservatives to extend lifespan
- (iv) In Paragraphs 2 and 3, the writer contrasts the characteristics of plastic toys with eco-friendly toys. What does this comparison reveal about the writer's perspective on consumer responsibility? 2
- (v) Identify whether the following statement is True or False. (Paragraph 4)
The sensory richness of eco-friendly toys primarily enhances children's entertainment value rather than their cognitive development. 1
- (vi) Complete the analogy by selecting one of the two correct options (a) or (b). 1
disposable trinkets : landfills :: :
 - (a) eco-friendly toys : environmental responsibility
 - (b) meaningful keepsakes: future generations
- (vii) Read the statements (I–V) given below and select the option that correctly classifies them as Facts (F) or Opinions (O). 1
 - (I) BPA and lead are used in the production of mass-produced plastic toys.
 - (II) Plastic toys are affordable and attractive, which makes them popular.
 - (III) Eco-friendly toys are designed to survive longer and are not discarded as waste.
 - (IV) Wooden toys engage children's minds in deeper and more meaningful ways than plastic toys.
 - (V) The choice between plastic and eco-friendly toys is about mindful consumption.

- (a) (I) O (II) O (III) F (IV) F (V) O
- (b) (I) F (II) F (III) O (IV) O (V) F
- (c) (I) O (II) F (III) F (IV) O (V) O
- (d) (I) F (II) O (III) F (IV) O (V) O

(viii) What might be the author's purpose of asking rhetorical questions** throughout the passage? 2

*** a figure of speech in which questions are asked for a reason other than to get an answer*

2. Read the following passage.

10

1. A 2023 report found that 'audio routines' have become a mainstay in people's daily lives. Unlike traditional content, audio-based experiences offer a hands-free and eyes-free experience, allowing individuals to stay entertained or absorb information outside the confines of a screen or paper book. The audiobooks market in India is also witnessing intense growth, fuelled by the rapid adoption of smartphones and a rising preference for convenient, on-the-go content consumption.
2. A survey found that half of audiobook listeners spend between 1–4 hours per week listening to audiobooks and 33% spend 5–10 hours a week. When asked in which scenarios they're most likely to hit play on an audiobook, commute was the most popular choice. 63% said they listen to audiobooks while on the go, 54% while completing household chores and 44% while relaxing or falling asleep. 56% of the listeners generally prefer to listen to fiction over non-fiction books.
3. 67% of audiobook listeners say they read more with audiobooks compared to books in traditional text format. When integrated into daily routines, audiobooks serve as a channel for more people to enjoy literature, accommodating those with the busiest of schedules.
4. The audiobook format also offers a user-friendly format that enables a diverse population, including individuals with physical or neurological limitations to have access to literature. Additionally, it serves as a valuable resource for individuals with attention span difficulties, allowing them to engage with books despite the challenges of sitting down and maintaining a focus on reading.

Created for academic usage / 253 words

Answer the following questions based on the passage above.

- (i) Complete the sentence by selecting the correct option from those given in the bracket. 1
The word 'mainstay' as used in Paragraph 1 suggests that audiobooks have
(overpowered people's lives/ become a support in people's lives).
- (ii) What does relationship between smartphone adoption and audiobook suggest about consumer preferences? (Paragraph 1) 1
- (iii) Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below. 1
Assertion: The most preferred scenario for listening to audiobooks is when travelling.
Reason: During travel, listeners struggle with short attention span problems.
 - (a) Both assertion and reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation.
 - (b) Both are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation.
 - (c) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.
 - (d) The assertion is false, but the reason is true.
- (iv) Choose the correct option to complete the sentence. 1
All of the following are mentioned in Paragraph 2 EXCEPT–

- (a) 50% of audiobook listeners spend between one and four hours weekly listening to audiobooks.
- (b) A little more than half of the audiobook listeners prefer fiction over non-fiction content.
- (c) Approximately 30% percent of listeners spend less than one hour weekly listening to audiobooks.
- (d) Audiobooks have made it possible for people to appreciate literature.
- (v) Compare the preference for fiction (56%) versus non-fiction in audiobooks. What might this suggest about listener expectations? (Paragraph 2) 2
- (vi) Complete the sentence suitably. (Paragraph 3) 1
Audiobook adoption has worked well for people with busy lifestyles because
- (vii) Identify the phrase from Paragraph 4 that indicates that everyone would find audiobooks easy and comfortable. 1
- (viii) A student with reading difficulties wants to complete his reading assignments in school. Why would an audio book option be an advantage? (Paragraph 4) 1
- (ix) Suggest one reason why the title, 'Rise of Audiobooks: Transforming Reading' is a suitable title for the passage. 1

SECTION B

WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR

(20 Marks)

GRAMMAR

(10 Marks)

3. Complete *any ten* of the twelve following tasks, as directed.

(10 × 1 = 10)

- (i) Fill in the blank with the correct option to complete the opening line of a formal email: 1
Dear Ms. Sharma,
We are writing to confirm that your application for the scholarship programme by our selection committee last week.
 - (a) has been reviewed
 - (b) was being reviewed
 - (c) has been reviewing
 - (d) will be reviewed
- (ii) Report the doctor's statement. 1
Doctor: "You should reduce your sugar intake and exercise regularly."
- (iii) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the official notice: 1
Notification to All Students,
Please note that applicants who have submitted incomplete forms are required to resubmit their documents by Friday.
 - (a) these
 - (b) those
 - (c) this
 - (d) that
- (iv) Read Isha's statement to her class teacher about missing school: 1
"I was absent yesterday because I had to visit the dentist for my regular check-up."
Report Isha's statement by completing the following sentence:
Isha explained that

- (v) Identify and correct the error in the given line from a technical report: 1

Neither the software developers nor the project manager were aware of the compatibility issues.

Error	Correction

- (vi) Select the correct option to complete the given sentence from the school's safety policy: 1

All students wear their identification badges at all times while on campus premises.

- (a) might
- (b) could
- (c) must
- (d) may

- (vii) The given question has an error. Select the option that correctly identifies the error and the correction. 1

What among these books have you read before?

No.	Error	Correction
(a)	What	Which
(b)	among	between
(c)	these	this
(d)	have	has

- (viii) Juhi asked her friend the following question: 1

“Are you prepared for the mathematics test next week?”

Report it correctly to complete the following sentence.

Juhi asked her friend

- (ix) Choose the correct option to fill in the blank. 1

Saira was disappointed when she saw there was food left to serve the guests.

- (a) few
- (b) least
- (c) any
- (d) little

- (x) Identify the error and suggest the correction. 1

Each of the participants in the Science Fair have been given a set of guidelines to follow during the competition.

Error	Correction

- (xi) Fill in the blank to complete the teacher's advice by choosing the correct options from those given in brackets. 1

If you practice regularly, you (might / must) win the quiz competition next month.

- (xii) Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb given in the brackets from a travel blog. 1

This hill station (lose) its natural beauty since the last time I saw it.

WRITING

(10 Marks)

Note: All details presented in the questions in writing section are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.

4. Attempt any one of the following questions.

(1 × 5 = 5)

- [A] You are Maya Nair, a concerned resident of Green View Colony, Guwahati. You feel that your colony lacks adequate recreational and community spaces for residents of all age groups. The existing facilities are insufficient. Write a letter to the Secretary of your Resident Welfare Association (RWA) in 120 words, highlighting the need for establishing a community centre in the colony explaining how it will benefit the residents.

OR

- [B] You are Nandan Banerjee, a concerned citizen. Write a letter to the Editor of a local daily raising concern over the open burning of hospital and domestic waste in your city. Draw attention to its serious health implications, the need for scientific waste disposal practices and public awareness.

5. Attempt any one of the following questions.

(1 × 5 = 5)

- [A] Read the product details mentioned on an e-commerce website for a student study desk organiser.

- ⇒ Multi-compartment storage with dedicated slots for books, stationery, and digital devices
- ⇒ Eco-friendly bamboo/wood construction with non-toxic finish
- ⇒ Adjustable shelves to accommodate different item sizes
- ⇒ Compact yet spacious design suitable for a small room space
- ⇒ Anti-slip base prevents sliding on smooth surfaces
- ⇒ Available in natural wood and light oak finishes
- ⇒ Backed by a 5-year durability guarantee

Now, analyse why this desk organiser would be a good purchase for students. Write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words, considering factors such as its sustainability, organisational efficiency, optimal use of space, functionality, and student appeal.

OR

- [B] Vikram, a student of Grade X, has been offered the position of President of his school's Debate Club, which requires 5–7 hours weekly commitment. Study the SWOT notes and write an analytical paragraph in 100–120 to evaluate whether accepting this responsibility is advisable.

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Develops public speaking and leadership skills	Significant time commitment away from studies	Recognition and awards when representing school in state or national level competitions	Risk of burnout balancing multiple responsibilities
Creates strong network of like-minded peers	Managing team conflicts and disagreements	Opportunity to collaborate with other school clubs for joint events	Conflicts with board examination preparation schedule & potential decline in academic performance
Access to debate mentors and senior members who can provide guidance and support	Limited time available for other activities	Useful for university admissions in future due to leadership experience	Criticism or negative feedback from members

SECTION C

LITERATURE TEXTBOOK

(40 Marks)

6. Read the given extracts A and B and answer *any one* of the two.

(1 × 5 = 5)

[A] Natalya: But what's this? Why, you're in evening dress! Well, I never! Are you going to a ball or what? Though I must say you look better... Tell me, why are you got up like that?

Lomov: [excited] You see, honoured Natalya Stepanova... the fact is, I've made up my mind to ask you to hear me out... Of course you'll be surprised and perhaps even angry, but a... [aside] It's awfully cold!

Natalya: What's the matter? [pause] Well?

Lomov: I shall try to be brief: You must know, honoured Natalya Stepanova, that I have long, since my childhood, in fact, had the privilege of knowing your family. My late aunt and her husband, from whom, as you know, I inherited my land, always had the greatest respect for your father and your late mother. (The Proposal)

(i) Which of the following statements best explains Natalya's attitude in the opening lines of the extract? 1

(a) She is genuinely surprised by his formal attire and expresses sincere admiration while seeking an explanation.

(b) She mocks his formal dress with sarcasm to conceal her anxiety about his unexpected and unusual appearance.

(ii) What do the ellipses (...) in Lomov's speech highlight? 1

(a) Reveals his struggle to articulate his prepared thoughts

(b) Shows his overconfidence and casual attitude

(c) Demonstrates his anxiety and emotional turmoil

(d) Indicates a lack of intelligence and education

(iii) Complete the following suitably. 1

Lomov is quite formal in his conversation with Natalya and prepares lengthy justifications because he

(iv) How does the author's use of stage directions such as [excited] and [aside] enhance the dramatic tension in this extract? 2

OR

[B] Sweat broke out over her whole body. Would her stammering tongue again disgrace her? For the sake of this kind woman, however she decided to make an effort. She had such a soothing voice; she would not laugh at her.

"Bh-Bh-Bho-Bho," she began to stammer.

"Well done, well done," the teacher encouraged her. "Come on, now – the full name?"

"Bh-Bh-Bho-Bholi." At last she was able to see it and felt relieved as if it was a great achievement.

"Well done." The teacher patted her affectionately and said, "Put the fear out of your heart and you will be able to speak like everyone else."

Bholi looked up as if to ask, "Really?"

(Bholi)

- (i) Complete the sentence suitably. 1
Bholi shows some physical symptoms like sweat breaking out over her body and stammering. This shows she is
- (ii) Choose the correct option to complete the sentence. 1
“Would her stammering tongue again disgrace her?” The author has used this question as a narrative technique, with the aim of
(a) convincing readers to judge Bholi.
(b) showcasing Bholi’s inabilities.
(c) giving readers a peek into Bholi’s thoughts.
(d) showing sympathy for Bholi.
- (iii) The teacher’s statement, “Put the fear out of your heart and you will be able to speak like everyone else” suggests that Bholi’s primary obstacle is psychological rather than physical. Elaborate. 2
- (iv) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket. 1
Bholi’s gesture of looking up ‘as if to ask, Really?’ reveals a mix of
(hope and hesitation/ disobedience and doubt).

7. Read the given extracts A and B and answer any one of the two. (1 × 5 = 5)

- [A] Don’t eat that chocolate, Amanda!
Remember your acne, Amanda!
Will you please look at me when I’m speaking to you,
Amanda! (Amanda)
- (i) Complete the sentence suitably. 1
The speaker connects chocolate consumption to acne, which reveals her concerns regarding
- (ii) How does the speaker’s demand ‘look at me when I’m speaking to you’ suggest the dynamic between them? 1
(a) The speaker asserts authority which has a great influence on Amanda.
(b) Amanda is defiant and the speaker feels disrespected and ignored.
(c) Amanda is interested in listening to the speaker but is distracted.
(d) The speaker feels insecure and anxious about losing Amanda.
- (iii) Fill in the blank with ONE suitable word. 1
The speaker’s use of ‘Will you please’ in the beginning of the third line suggests a rather than a demand.
- (iv) Analyse how the repetition of Amanda’s name and the use of exclamation marks contribute to the tone and mood of the extract. 2

OR

- [B] Listen. The glass is breaking.
The trees are stumbling forward
into the night. Winds rush to meet them.
The moon is broken like a mirror,
its pieces flash now in the crown of the tallest oak. (The Trees)

- (i) Complete the sentence suitably. 1
The word 'listen' at the opening of the extract creates a sense of, pulling the reader directly into the dramatic manner of nature's revolt.
- (ii) Choose the correct option to complete the sentence. 1
The phrase 'stumbling forward' suggests that the trees' movement is
(a) graceful and purposeful.
(b) deliberate and controlled.
(c) unsteady and uncertain.
(d) rapid and aggressive.
- (iii) Fill in the blank with ONE suitable word. 1
The repeated imagery of 'breaking' in the extract suggests that it is not destruction but a/an part of any meaningful change or liberation.
- (iv) How does the sequence of sensory experiences in the extract enhance meaning and impact readers? 2

8. Answer any four of the following five questions, in about 40–50 words. (4 × 3 = 12)

- [A] How does the poem use the 'cat metaphor' to characterise the fog's nature? (Fog)
- [B] The writer uses humour to simultaneously entertain readers and critique societal attitudes toward animals. Elaborate. (Mijbil the Otter)
- [C] How does the hailstorm function as more than just a weather event in the story? (A Letter to God)
- [D] Assess how the poem's message about not judging by appearances still relevant today. (The Tale of Custard the Dragon)
- [E] Why has the writer included the legends about tea's origin-the Chinese emperor's story and Bodhidharma's tale in the narrative? (Glimpses of India- Tea from Assam)

9. Answer any two of the following three questions, in about 40–50 words. (2 × 3 = 6)

- [A] Compare Hari's initial approach to Anil with his honest smile at the story's end. What does this change reveal? (The Thief's Story)
- [B] Analyse how the writer uses irony throughout the story to convey the message that vanity and materialism lead to one's downfall. (The Necklace)
- [C] Why does Horace take off his gloves to give the young lady his lighter? What does this action tell us about his state of mind at that crucial moment? (A Question of Trust)

10. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 100–120 words. (1 × 6 = 6)

- [A] Valli in 'Madam Rides the Bus' and the young seagull in 'His First Flight' are protagonists of the story who undergo personal transformation. Compare and contrast how the catalysts in these stories drive the change.

OR

- [B] The poems, 'The Ball Poem' and 'Dust of Snow' capture brief moments that teach lasting lessons. How do these poems propose that momentary events generate a lasting impact?

11. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 100–120 words. (1 × 6 = 6)

[A] In the story, 'The Midnight Visitor' the 'balcony' functions as the story's central plot device, yet it never physically exists. Discuss what the balcony symbolises in the story.

OR

[B] In 'The Book that Saved the Earth', Think-Tank rules Mars with absolute authority and arrogance, yet he makes ridiculous mistakes throughout the play. Evaluate how this impacts his leadership.

ANSWERS

SECTION A

READING SKILLS

1. (i) It emphasises that plastic toys are present in very large numbers and dominate toy-store shelves.
 - (ii) Option (a): the potential health hazards present in mass-produced plastic toys that consumers often ignore or are unaware of.
 - (iii) (c) Plastic bottles processed and converted into shoes.
 - (iv) The comparison shows that buyers should not choose toys only for their low price or bright appearance. They should also consider children's safety, learning value, durability and environmental impact, and choose products that support responsible consumption.
 - (v) False. The passage says that the sensory richness of natural materials supports deeper thinking, problem-solving and creativity, not entertainment alone.
 - (vi) Option (a): eco-friendly toys: environmental responsibility.
 - (vii) (d) (I) F, (II) O, (III) F, (IV) O, (V) O
 - (viii) The rhetorical questions directly involve readers and make them examine their own buying habits. They also guide readers towards the writer's view that choosing safe, durable and eco-friendly toys is a responsible decision.
2. (i) become a support in people's lives.
 - (ii) It suggests that consumers prefer content that is easy to access on smartphones and can be enjoyed while travelling or doing other tasks.
 - (iii) (c) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.
 - (iv) (c) Approximately 30% of listeners spend less than one hour weekly listening to audiobooks.

- (v) The small majority for fiction suggests that many listeners expect entertainment, imagination and engaging stories. However, the large non-fiction share shows that many people also use audiobooks for learning and useful information.
- (vi) they can listen during travel, household chores or rest and fit literature into a busy daily routine without setting aside separate reading time.
- (vii) 'a user-friendly format'.
- (viii) An audiobook lets the student listen to the text instead of depending only on printed words. This can make the assignment easier to understand and complete despite reading difficulties.
- (ix) The title is suitable because the passage explains the growing popularity of audiobooks and how they are changing reading by making books more convenient, accessible and inclusive.

SECTION B

WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR

GRAMMAR

3. (i) has been reviewed
- (ii) The doctor advised the patient to reduce their sugar intake and exercise regularly.
- (iii) those
- (iv) Isha explained that she had been absent the previous day because she had had to visit the dentist for her regular check-up.
- (v) ERROR – were
CORRECTION – was
- (vi) (c) must
- (vii) ERROR – What
CORRECTION – Which
- (viii) Juhi asked her friend whether she was prepared for the mathematics test the following week.

- (ix) (d) little
- (x) ERROR– have
CORRECTION – has
- (xi) might
- (xii) has lost

WRITING

4. [A]

Maya Nair
42, Green View Colony
Guwahati

22 September 2026

The Secretary
Resident Welfare Association
Green View Colony, Guwahati

Subject: Need for a community centre in the colony

Madam/Sir,

I wish to draw attention to the lack of suitable recreational and community spaces in our colony. The small park and the present hall cannot meet the needs of children, young people, adults and senior citizens.

A well-planned community centre could provide a reading room, indoor games, exercise and yoga space, and a hall for meetings, workshops and cultural programmes. It would give children a safe place to learn and play, help senior citizens remain active, and allow residents to meet regularly. Such a centre would also strengthen cooperation and a sense of belonging in the colony.

I request the RWA to discuss the proposal, identify a suitable site and begin a transparent fund-raising plan.

Yours sincerely,

Maya Nair

4. [B]

Nandan Banerjee
18, Lake Road
Guwahati

22 September 2026

The Editor
The City Herald
Guwahati

Subject: Open burning of hospital and domestic waste

Madam/ Sir,

Through the columns of your newspaper, I wish to draw attention to the open burning of hospital and domestic waste in our city.

Smoke from plastic, medical disposables and mixed rubbish releases toxic gases and fine particles. It can cause breathing problems, eye irritation, heart disease and serious infections, especially among children, older people and waste workers. Burning also spreads ash and pollutes the soil and air.

The municipal authority must ensure segregation at source, safe collection of biomedical waste, scientific treatment, recycling and strict action against offenders. Hospitals and households should receive clear instructions, while regular public campaigns should explain safe disposal.

Your newspaper can help make this issue urgent and encourage citizens to report violations.

Yours sincerely,

Nandan Banerjee

5. [A] The student study desk organiser is a practical purchase because it combines sustainability, efficiency and durability. Its bamboo/wood body and non-toxic finish make it safer and more eco-friendly than plastic organisers. Several compartments provide separate spaces for books, stationery and digital devices, so students can keep the desk neat and find items quickly. Adjustable shelves allow the organiser to hold objects of different sizes. Although compact, it uses vertical space well and is suitable for a small room. The anti-slip base keeps it steady on smooth surfaces, reducing the risk of spills or damage. Natural wood and light

oak finishes also give students a choice of appearance. Finally, the five-year guarantee makes it a dependable and economical investment.

5. [B] Accepting the Debate Club presidency could benefit Vikram, but only with a clearly timed plan. The role would improve his public speaking, leadership and teamwork. It may also bring awards, useful contacts, guidance from mentors and a strong record for university applications. However, five to seven hours each week is a major commitment during Grade X. Team conflicts, criticism and event work may cause stress or reduce study time, especially before the board examinations. Therefore, Vikram should accept only if the school can reduce his duties near examinations and he can follow a fixed weekly schedule. He should also delegate tasks to other members. Without these safeguards, the risk of burnout and lower academic performance may outweigh the benefits.

SECTION C

LITERATURE TEXTBOOK

6. [A] (i) Option (a): She is genuinely surprised by his formal attire and expresses sincere admiration while seeking an explanation.
- (ii) (c) The ellipses demonstrate Lomov's anxiety and emotional turmoil.
- (iii) he is nervous about making a marriage proposal and wants to appear respectful and establish his family's close connection with Natalya's family before stating his purpose.
- (iv) The stage direction [excited] shows Lomov's nervous energy, while [aside] reveals private discomfort that Natalya cannot hear. These interruptions delay the proposal, increase suspense and create humour because his formal

speech is repeatedly disturbed by anxiety.

6. [B] (i) very anxious and frightened.
- (ii) (c) giving readers a peek into Bholi's thoughts
- (iii) Bholi's stammer becomes worse when she fears ridicule and failure. The teacher's gentle voice, praise and patience help her say her name. This improvement shows that fear and low confidence, created by years of mockery, are her main barriers, not a complete physical inability to speak.
- (iv) hope and hesitation.
7. [A] (i) Amanda's physical appearance and skin health, especially the fear that chocolate may worsen her acne.
- (ii) Amanda is defiant and the speaker feels disrespected and ignored.
- (iii) request
- (iv) The repeated use of 'Amanda' makes the speaker sound insistent and controlling. The exclamation marks add impatience and sharpness. Together, they create a tense, scolding mood and show how constant instructions push Amanda further into silence and daydreaming.
7. [B] (i) urgency
- (ii) (c) unsteady and uncertain
- (iii) inevitable
- (iv) The extract begins with sound – the command to listen and the breaking glass – then adds movement, rushing wind and the visual image of the broken moon. This sequence makes the escape vivid and dramatic, helping readers hear and see the trees' powerful movement towards freedom.
8. [A] The fog is compared to a cat because it arrives silently on 'little cat feet'. It sits

watchfully over the harbour and city on its haunches and then moves away.

The metaphor presents fog as quiet, soft, mysterious, alert and temporary.

- [B] Maxwell creates humour through Mij's playful actions and the public's strange guesses about his species, including a baby seal, a squirrel and even a brontosaur. The comedy also exposes how people label unfamiliar animals carelessly instead of observing them with patience and understanding.
- [C] The hailstorm destroys Lencho's crop, income and hope for the year. It therefore becomes the crisis that tests his faith and begins his letter to God. It also reveals the postmaster's kindness and the irony of Lencho trusting God but suspecting helpful human beings.
- [D] Belinda and the other pets judge Custard by his timid words and appearance, so they call him a coward. During real danger, however, Custard alone faces the pirate. The poem remains relevant because people are often judged by image or talk, while true character appears through action.
- [E] The two legends make the account of tea lively and memorable. They show that tea has a long cultural history and that different societies explain its discovery in imaginative ways. They also display Rajvir's knowledge and deepen the reader's interest during the journey to Assam.
9. [A] Hari first approaches Anil with a false name, flattery and a calculated smile because he wants to gain his trust and steal from him. His final smile is honest and grateful after Anil silently forgives him. The change reveals moral growth produced by kindness, trust and the promise of education.
- [B] Matilda borrows a necklace to appear rich for one evening, but losing it forces the Loiseles into ten years of poverty. The greatest irony is that the costly replacement is real while the borrowed necklace is fake. Her desire for status and luxury destroys the comfort she already had.
- [C] Horace removes his gloves because he is eager to please the young woman and believes she will let him go. Fear and sudden relief have weakened his judgement, so he trusts her and forgets his usual caution. By leaving fingerprints, he unknowingly creates the evidence that leads to his arrest.
10. [A] Valli and the young seagull both move from limitation to confidence, but the forces that change them are different. Valli's catalyst is her own curiosity. She gathers information, saves money and plans the bus journey independently. The cheerful ride gives her confidence, while the sight of the dead cow makes her quieter and more mature. The seagull's change is forced by hunger and his mother's clever use of food. When he dives towards the fish, his wings open and instinct replaces fear. His family then supports and celebrates him. Thus, Valli changes through planned experience and reflection, whereas the seagull changes through pressure, instinct and family encouragement.
- [B] Both poems show that a very brief event can permanently change a person's understanding. In 'The Ball Poem', the loss of a ball gives the boy his first real lesson in grief, responsibility and acceptance. The event is small, but it prepares him for greater losses in life. In 'Dust of Snow', a crow shakes snow from a hemlock tree onto the poet. This ordinary moment changes his sad mood and saves part of a day he had regretted. One poem brings maturity through pain; the other brings hope through nature. Together, they show that sudden, simple experiences can reshape feelings and leave lasting wisdom.

11. [A] The balcony symbolises the power of intelligence, language and illusion. Ausable invents it calmly and adds believable details, so Max accepts it as a real escape route. The false balcony becomes a psychological trap: when Max hears the knock, he thinks the police have arrived and jumps towards a balcony that does not exist. It also exposes the difference between appearance and ability. Max has a gun and looks dangerous, while Ausable seems ordinary and unfit for secret work. Yet Ausable controls the situation through quick thinking. Thus, the imaginary balcony represents how a convincing idea can defeat physical force and turn an enemy's fear against him.
- [B] Think-Tank's arrogance makes his leadership weak and unsafe. Because

he demands praise and claims to be the greatest mind, his officers do not openly question him. He therefore makes foolish decisions based on poor understanding. He first treats books as sandwiches and communication devices, then misreads nursery rhymes as proof that Earthlings grow metals, train animals for space travel and plan an attack on Mars. When he sees Humpty Dumpty, he panics because it resembles him and orders an immediate escape. His fear cancels the invasion, but only by accident. Noodle's calm suggestions are far more useful. The play shows that authority without knowledge, humility or critical thinking produces confusion and cowardly decisions.