

CBSE CLASS X

English Language & Literature (184)

QUESTION PAPER

From previous CBSE Board Exam questions

Code: B8MDIW

Questions: 29

Maximum Marks: 100

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SELECTIONS USED

Source	Previous-year board
Subject	English Language & Literature
Lessons	Glimpses of India
Year	2022-2026
Questions selected	29

Composition — Types: 21 Short · 7 literature_extract · 1 literature_long

Q1.

[5]

My head is full of whispers
Which tomorrow will be silent.
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.

Read the given extract and answer the questions:

- (i) Identify the figure of speech used in the line: "The Trees are stumbling forward into the night". [1]
- (ii) Explain the significance of the line: "The moon is broken like a mirror, its pieces flash now in the crown of the tallest Oak." Answer in about 40 words. [2]
- (iii) Complete the sentence with the appropriate option. In the third line, the word 'Listen' is used to _____. [1]
- (A) serve no purpose but to complete the sentence.
(B) emphasize listening carefully to the sound of glass breaking.
(C) emphasize listening carefully as a change is about to take place.
(D) make the reader more attentive.
- (iv) What does the line: "My head is full of whispers which tomorrow will be silent" tell us about the poet's state of mind? [1]

Previously asked in: 2024 2/2/1 Q7(b)

◆ 5.4 The Trees

Q2.

[5]

The train pulled out of the station – Pranjal buried his nose in his detective book again. Rajvir too was an ardent fan of detective stories but, at the moment he was keener on looking at the beautiful scenery. It was green, green everywhere. Rajvir had never seen so much greenery before. Then the soft green paddy fields gave way to tea bushes. It was a magnificent view. Against the backdrop of densely wooded hills a sea of tea bushes stretched as far as the eye could see. Dwarfing the tiny tea plants were tall, sturdy, shade-trees and amidst the orderly rows of bushes busily moved doll-like figures.

Read the given extract and answer the questions:

- (i) State any one inference about Rajvir from the given context: "Rajvir too was an ardent fan of detective stories, but at the moment he was keen on looking at the beautiful scenery." [1]
- (ii) State True or False: The reason Rajvir was interested in looking at the beautiful scenery was that the detective book he was reading, was not interesting. [1]
- (iii) People who live in big cities are always fascinated by the natural beauty and abundant greenery. Elaborate in about 40 words, with reference to the extract. [2]
- (iv) Which phrase would correctly substitute 'doll-like figures', in the given sentence from the extract? Dwarfing the tiny tea plants were tall sturdy shade-trees and amidst the orderly rows of bushes busily moved doll-like figures. [1]

Previously asked in: 2024 2/2/1 Q6(a)

◆ 5.3 Tea from Assam

Q3.

[5]

My head is full of whispers
which tomorrow will be silent.
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.

Read the given extract and answer the questions.

- (i) The metaphorical expression used by the poet to describe the movement of the trees is _____. [1]
- (ii) Based on the tone, discuss how Adreinne Rich presents the conflict between man and nature. [2]
- (iii) What is the mood or atmosphere conveyed by the imagery in the passage? [1]
 - (A) Calm and tranquil
 - (B) Eerie and foreboding
 - (C) Joyful and celebratory
 - (D) Melancholic and traumatic
- (iv) Why would the whispers be silent tomorrow? [1]

Previously asked in: 2025 2/6/1 Q7(a)

◆ 5.4 The Trees

Q4.

[5]

I sit inside, doors open to the veranda writing long letters in which I scarcely mention the departure of the forest from the house. The night is fresh, the whole moon shines in a sky still open

Read the given extract and answer the questions.

- I** What atmosphere or mood is created by the language and imagery used in the above lines? [2]
- II** Choose the option that correctly pairs the two different meanings implied by the use of 'open' twice in the extract: [1]
- A entry point - vastness
 - B sharing a common space - great view
 - C allowing access and vision - expanse of space
 - D advantage - obstacles ahead
- III** From the provided extract, what is conspicuously absent from the long letters the speaker is writing while they sit indoors with the doors open to the veranda? [1]
- IV** How does the poet describe the night? 1. dark 2. frightening 3. dense 4. fresh 5. bright Select the correct option: [1]
- A 1 and 5
 - B Only 3
 - C 4 and 5
 - D 2 and 4

Previously asked in: 2025 2/4/1 Q7.B

♦ 5.4 The Trees

Q5.

[5]

The leaves strain toward the glass
small twigs stiff with exertion
long-cramped boughs shuffling under the roof
like newly discharged patients
half-dazed, moving
to the clinic doors.

Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (a) or (b):

- (i)** How does the comparison between the boughs and newly discharged patients contribute to the theme or message of the poem? Answer in about 40 words. [2]
- (ii)** Complete the sentence with the appropriate option. The imagery and descriptions in the poem create a mood of _____. [1]
- (A) satisfaction and elation
 - (B) transition and uncertainty
 - (C) confusion and chaos
 - (D) pessimism and certainty
- (iii)** Fill in the blank with one word. The stiff movement of the twigs in the above extract suggests the _____. [1]
- (iv)** Why does the poet describe the bough as 'shuffling'? [1]

Previously asked in: 2025 2/2/1 Q7 (b)

♦ 5.4 The Trees

Q6.

[5]

"All night the roots work
To disengage themselves from the cracks
in the veranda floor. The leaves strain towards the glass
small twigs stiff with exertion
long-cramped boughs shuffling
under the roof
like newly discharged patients
half dazed, moving to the clinic doors

Read the following extracts and answer the questions:

- (i) What do the roots work upon all night? [1]
- (ii) Each part of the trees works to get itself free. Describe their struggle. (answer in about 40 words) [2]
- (iii) Fill the blank with one word. The long branches are compared to _____. [1]
- (iv) The phrase 'half-dazed' is used for the branches as they adjust from being indoors to being in the open. It highlights the branches': [1]
 - (A) disorientation and fragility
 - (B) experience and privilege
 - (C) hurt and injury
 - (D) barrenness and pain

Previously asked in: 2026 2/5/1 Q7(B)

◆ 5.4 The Trees

Q7.

[5]

I sit inside, doors open to the veranda
writing long letters
in which I scarcely mention the departure
of the forest from the house.
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.

Read the given extracts and answer the questions for any ONE of the two given.

- (i) Comment on the portrayal of the narrator in the given extract. [2]
- (ii) Complete the following suitably : The trees' movement from the house to the forest, reflect the broader theme of _____. [1]
- (iii) What has the poet hardly mentioned in her letter ? [1]
- (iv) What kind of atmosphere is created through the given extract ? Select the correct option(s) : 1. nostalgia 2. serenity 3. detachment 4. loss 5. joy [1]
- (A) 1 and 4
(B) Only 2
(C) 1, 2 and 3
(D) 2 and 5

Previously asked in: 2026 2/4/1 Q7 (a)

♦ 5.4 The Trees

Q8.

[3]

Who are paders and why are they friends of children ? (Glimpses of India)

Previously asked in: 2023 2/4/1 Q8 (c)

♦ Glimpses of India

Q9.

[3]

"During our childhood in Goa, the baker used to be our friend, companion and guide." What does this statement imply in relation to the character of the baker? (Glimpses of India)

Previously asked in: 2024 2/3/1 Q8 (ii)

♦ 5.1 A Baker from Goa

Q10.

[2]

How did the baker become synonymous with celebrations and occasions in Goa? (Glimpses of India)

Previously asked in: 2022 2/3/1 Q6 (ii)

♦ 5.1 A Baker from Goa

Q11.

[2]

What does the writer recall about his childhood in Goa? (Glimpses of India)

Previously asked in: 2022 2/4/1 Q6 (i)

♦ Glimpses of India

Q12.**[3]**

How is the Goan baker still an important part of the life of a Goan village ?

Previously asked in: 2023 2/6/1 Q8 (c)

♦ 5.1 A Baker from Goa

Q13.**[3]**

The author says 'During our childhood in Goa, the baker used to be our friend, companion and guide.' Elaborate. (Glimpses of India)

Previously asked in: 2024 2/5/1 Q8 (iv)

♦ 5.1 A Baker from Goa

Q14.**[3]**

How does the description of the baker's lifestyle in the past evoke a sense of nostalgia? (Glimpses of India – A Baker from Goa)

Previously asked in: 2025 2/2/1 Q8 (iii)

♦ 5.1 A Baker from Goa

Q15.**[3]**

The portrayal of the baker's attire and role in the village emphasize the cultural and social significance of bread-making within the community. Elaborate. (Glimpses of India – A Baker from Goa)

Previously asked in: 2025 2/3/1 Q8 (iii)

♦ 5.1 A Baker from Goa

Q16.**[3]**

Bread plays a pivotal role in Goan culture and tradition. Support the statement with evidences from the text. (Glimpses of India : A Baker from Goa)

Previously asked in: 2026 2/2/1 Q8 (iii)

♦ 5.1 A Baker from Goa

Q17.**[3]**

How are the cultural and social fabric of Goa closely knit together with the traditional baker and his bread ? (Glimpses of India)

Previously asked in: 2026 2/4/1 Q8 (i)

♦ 5.1 A Baker from Goa

Q18.**[3]**

Coorg has been defined as a piece of heaven by the writer. Justify. (Glimpses of India)

Previously asked in: 2024 2/4/1 Q8 (iii)

♦ Glimpses of India 5.2 Coorg

Q19.**[3]**

How does modern India recognize the tradition of courage and bravery in Coorgi culture ? (Glimpses of India)

Previously asked in: 2025 2/5/1 Q8 (v)

♦ 5.2 Coorg

Q20.**[2]**

What attracts visitors to Coorg? (Glimpses of India)

Previously asked in: 2022 2/1/1 Q6 (vii)

♦ 5.2 Coorg

Q21.**[2]**

Why is Coorg called the land of the rolling hills ? (Glimpses of India)

Previously asked in: 2022 2/2/1 Q6 (i)

♦ 5.2 Coorg

Q22.**[3]**

Where is Coorg located? Write any two characteristics of the people of Coorg?

Previously asked in: 2023 2/1/1 Q8 (c)

♦ 5.2 Coorg

Q23.**[3]**

Pranjal seemed to have a different level of enthusiasm compared to Rajvir when they both saw the tree plantation. Justify. (Glimpses of India)

Previously asked in: 2025 2/4/1 Q8 II

♦ Glimpses of India

Q24.**[3]**

Why did Rajvir's excitement at seeing the tea gardens not impress Pranjal?

Previously asked in: 2023 2/5/1 Q8 (b)

♦ 5.3 Tea from Assam

Q25.**[3]**

What is the Indian legend about the discovery of tea?

Previously asked in: 2023 2/2/1 Q8 (a)

♦ 5.3 Tea from Assam

Q26.**[3]**

What did Pranjal and Rajvir do during the journey? Why?

Previously asked in: 2023 2/1/1 Q8 (a)

♦ 5.3 Tea from Assam

Q27.**[3]**

Explain the reasons for Rajvir's excitement on seeing the plantation and Pranjal's lack of enthusiasm. (Glimpses of India – Tea from Assam)

Previously asked in: 2025 2/1/1 Q8 (iii)

♦ Glimpses of India

Q28.**[3]**

What happens to the house when the trees move out of it? Comment. (The Trees)

Previously asked in: 2025 2/3/1 Q8 (iv)

♦ 5.4 The Trees

Q29.**[6]**

Both, Rajvir in 'Tea from Assam' and Valli in 'Madam Rides the Bus' are motivated by a strong desire to experience the world beyond their everyday life. How do their respective journeys reflect their curiosity, enthusiasm for discovering new things and shape their understanding of the world around them ?

Previously asked in: 2026 2/3/1 Q10(b)

♦ **Madam Rides the Bus**

5.3 Tea from Assam

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