

CBSE CLASS X

English Language & Literature (184)

QUESTION PAPER

From previous CBSE Board Exam questions

Code: BD1QMX Questions: 38 Maximum Marks: 158 Generated: 2026-06-15 13:05

SELECTIONS USED

Source	Previous-year board
Subject	English Language & Literature
Lessons	Madam Rides the Bus
Year	2022-2026
Questions selected	38

Composition — Types: 18 Short · 11 literature_long · 5 literature_extract · 4 Long

Q1.

[6]

Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words:

Examine the similarities and differences between the tiger in "A Tiger in the Zoo" and the dragon in "The Tale of Custard the Dragon".

Previously asked in: 2026 2/1/1 Q10(I)

♦ 2.1 A Tiger in the Zoo

7.1 The Tale of Custard the Dragon

Q2.

[6]

How does the contrast between the pilot's fear in 'The Black Aeroplane' and Custard's initial cowardice in 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' highlight that courage can be found in the most unexpected characters when circumstances demand it? Discuss with reference to the two.

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

♦ Two Stories about Flying

3.2 Black Aeroplane

7.1 The Tale of Custard the Dragon

Q3.

[6]

Answer in 100-120 words.

The journeys of Anne Frank and Valli teach us the vital lesson that optimism and self-assurance empower women to rise above circumstances and overcome obstacles. Examine the similarities. (Diary of Anne Frank & Madam Rides the Bus)

Previously asked in: 2025 2/6/1 Q10(b)

♦ From the Diary of Anne Frank

Madam Rides the Bus

Q4.**[6]**

You have been chosen to address the school assembly on the occasion of Women's Day. You choose to speak on the resilience and indomitable spirit of the young girls: Anne Frank and Valli. Prepare the speech draft, with reference to the commonality and contrast in the situations and circumstances of both the girls.

(Madam Rides the Bus and From the Diary of Anne Frank)

You may begin like this: Good morning everyone. Today, I'd like to express my insights on the resilience of two young girls

You may end this way: To conclude I'd like to say that

Thank you.

Previously asked in: 2024 2/4/1 Q10(b)

◆ Madam Rides the Bus

From the Diary of Anne Frank

Q5.**[3]**

How did Valli gather the details of the bus journey ? (Madam rides the bus)

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

◆ Madam Rides the Bus

Q6.**[3]**

Ogden Nash uses vivid imagery in 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' to appeal to the senses. Elaborate the imagery used for the Pirate.

Previously asked in: 2024 2/2/1 Q8 (v)

◆ 7.1 The Tale of Custard the Dragon

Q7.**[3]**

What makes Custard, the dragon look fearsome? Explain.

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

◆ 7.1 The Tale of Custard the Dragon

Q8.**[4]**

Valli was sensitive, but at the same time she was fearless and quite determined. Explain with reference to the text.

Previously asked in: 2022 2/3/1 Q7 (ii)

◆ Madam Rides the Bus

Q9.**[2]**

How would you describe Custard the Dragon?

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

◆ 7.1 The Tale of Custard the Dragon

Q10.**[4]**

Valli was a mature girl and ahead of her age. Justify the statement with evidence from the text. (Madam Rides the Bus)

Previously asked in: 2022 2/1/1 Q7 (iii)

◆ Madam Rides the Bus

Q11.**[4]**

As Valli, make a diary entry sharing your joys and disappointments during the bus ride.

Previously asked in: 2022 2/4/1 Q7 (i)

◆ Madam Rides the Bus

Q12.**[4]**

As Valli, make a diary entry about your experience of riding the bus alone for the first time. (Madam Rides the Bus)

Previously asked in: 2022 2/2/1 Q7 (iii)

♦ Madam Rides the Bus

Q13.**[6]**

Valli was an extra-ordinary girl who had self-confidence and courage to realise her ambition by planning and drawing on her spirit of adventure. Discuss in reference to the chapter 'Madam Rides the Bus'.

Previously asked in: 2023 2/6/1 Q10(b)

♦ Madam Rides the Bus

Q14.**[3]**

What stopped Valli from going to the stall to have a drink? What do we learn about Valli from this?

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

♦ Madam Rides the Bus

Q15.**[6]**

The people and surroundings are a great book to learn from. Valli in 'Madam Rides the Bus' learned a lot from others. Mention the traits of her character which help her to learn from people and her surroundings.

Previously asked in: 2023 2/2/1 Q10(a)

♦ Madam Rides the Bus

Q16.**[6]**

Whenever we want to achieve something, difficulties always come in our way. What did Valli have to do to go and ride in a bus?

Previously asked in: 2023 2/1/1 Q10(a)

♦ Madam Rides the Bus

Q17.**[3]**

Valli found joy and fascination in the simple act of watching the bus pass through her village. What does this reveal about her perspective on life and her surroundings?

(Madam Rides the Bus)

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

♦ Madam Rides the Bus

Q18.**[3]**

How does Valli's desire to ride the bus reflect her aspirations and challenges in context of her daily life?

(Madam Rides the Bus)

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

♦ Madam Rides the Bus

Q19.**[3]**

Despite her young age, how does Valli manage to gather the subtle details about the bus journey? (Madam Rides the Bus)

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

♦ Madam Rides the Bus

Q20.**[3]**

In 'Madam Rides the Bus', how does the contrast between Valli's boldness and her emotional response to the dead cow shape your view of her maturity?

Previously asked in: 2026 2/5/1 Q8 (iv)

♦ Madam Rides the Bus

Q21.**[3]**

How does "Madam Rides the Bus" bring alive Valli's attributes and experiences through its narrative style?

Previously asked in: 2026 2/1/1 Q8 IV

♦ Madam Rides the Bus

Q22.**[3]**

Describe how Custard the dragon fights with the Pirate. (The tale of Custard the Dragon)

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

♦ 7.1 The Tale of Custard the Dragon

Q23.**[3]**

How does the poem 'The Tale of Custard The Dragon' differ from the traditional ballad?

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

♦ 7.1 The Tale of Custard the Dragon

Q24.**[3]**

The poem is about a doctor who is afraid of going to the dentist. How does Ogden Nash create humour and entertainment in the poem?

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

♦ 7.1 The Tale of Custard the Dragon

Q25.**[6]**

Discuss how the writers use language to create humour in the poem 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' and the play 'The Proposal'.

Previously asked in: 2025 2/3/1 Q10(b)

♦ 7.1 The Tale of Custard the Dragon

Q26.**[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

Q27.**[3]**

Belinda and other animals have been described as brave. But on seeing the pirate they behaved in a cowardly way. How did they react? (A Tale of Custard, The Dragon)

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

♦ 7.1 The Tale of Custard the Dragon

Q28.**[2]**

Describe Custard the dragon.

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

♦ 7.1 The Tale of Custard the Dragon

Q29.**[2]**

How did Custard prove 'the cowardly dragon' tag to be untrue ?

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

♦ 7.1 The Tale of Custard the Dragon

Q30.**[3]**

Upon encountering the deceased cow on the road, Valli was emotional. Comment with reference to 'Madam Rides the Bus'.

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

♦ Madam Rides the Bus

Q31.**[3]**What role does each of Belinda's pets play in the narrative? Select any two of her pets.
(The Tale of Custard the Dragon)

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

♦ 7.1 The Tale of Custard the Dragon

Q32.**[5]**

Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of bears,
And Ink and Blink chased lions down the stairs,
Mustard was as brave as a tiger in a rage,
But Custard cried for a nice safe cage.
Belinda tickled him, she tickled him unmerciful,
Ink, Blink and Mustard, they rudely called him Percival

Read the given extract and answer the questions.

- (i) What poetic device is used in the first sentence ? [1]
- (ii) What was ironical about Custard being referred to as Percival ? [2]
- (iii) Complete the following suitably : The word 'unmerciful' in the given context implies that Belinda is _____.
[1]
- (iv) What image of Custard is created in the above lines ? [1]

Previously asked in: 2025 2/5/1 Q7(a)

♦ 7.1 The Tale of Custard the Dragon

Q33.

[5]

Belinda giggled till she shook the house,
And Blink said Weeek! Which is giggling for a mouse,
Ink and Mustard rudely asked his age,
When Custard cried for a nice safe cage.
Suddenly, suddenly they heard a nasty sound,
And Mustard growled, and they all looked around.

Read the given extract and answer the questions.

- I** What inference can be drawn from the repetition of 'suddenly, suddenly' in the above extract? [1]
- A The scene shook the house
 - B It highlights the swift assault
 - C It emphasises that an unexpected noise was heard
 - D It directs our notice to Mustard's growling
- II** Despite its symbolism of captivity, what leads Custard to have a preference for staying in a cage? [2]
- III** Select the option that applies the same rhyme scheme as the lines of the first four lines of the given extract: [1]
- A Through the telescope she saw a star / which she thought was very far / She stretched her hand / and felt the crumple of the sand.
 - B Through the telescope she saw a star / She stretched her hand / As it was very far / But felt the crumple of the sand.
 - C Through the telescope she saw a star / Which she thought was very far / Her hand she stretched / But felt the crumple of the sand.
 - D Through the telescope she saw a star / Which she thought was very far / Her hand she stretched afar / But felt the crumple of the sand.
- IV** In the given extract, The difference between the other animals and Custard is that Custard behaves like a _____ (coward / dragon). [1]

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

♦ 7.1 The Tale of Custard the Dragon

Q34.

[5]

Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of bears,
And Ink and Blink chased lions down the stairs,
Mustard was as brave as a tiger in a rage,
But Custard cried for a nice safe cage.

Read the following extract and answer the questions.

- (i) Comment upon the contrast that is reflected in the last two lines of the extract. [1]
- (ii) Fill in the blank with one word. While describing Ink and Blink, the speaker says that they could chase lions down the stairs. By saying so, he is revealing the _____ characteristic of their personality. [1]
- (iii) Comment on the poet's use of language in these lines in about 40 words. [2]
- (iv) Which of the following best describes the theme of the poem? [1]
 - (A) Bravery and heroism
 - (B) Humility leads to bravery
 - (C) Valour and diligence
 - (D) Crisis reveals character

Previously asked in: 2024 2/4/1 Q7(b)

♦ 7.1 The Tale of Custard the Dragon

Q35.

[5]

It was a new bus, its outside painted a gleaming white with some green stripes along the sides. Inside, the overhead bars shone like silver. Directly in front of Valli, above the windshield, there was a beautiful clock. The seats were soft and luxurious.
Valli devoured everything with her eyes. But when she started to look outside, she found her view cut off by a canvas blind that covered the lower part of her window. So she stood up on the seat and peered over the blind.

Read the given extract and answer any one of the following questions given below :

- (i) The effect on Valli as she describes the bus reveals that she is _____. Choose the most suitable option. [1]
 - (A) awed
 - (B) scared
 - (C) disgusted
 - (D) repulsed
- (ii) How does the author's use of descriptive language enhance the narrative technique in the passage ? [2]
- (iii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket. The use of the word 'devoured' adds to a sense of _____ (fascination / hunger) in the extract. [1]
- (iv) Which action of Valli shows that she did not want to miss out on any part of the experience ? [1]

Previously asked in: 2026 2/4/1 Q6 (a)

♦ Madam Rides the Bus

Q36.

[5]

But the dragon was a coward, and she called him Custard.
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.

Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

- (i) Complete the analogy by selecting the suitable word from the extract. sharp : blunt : : above : _____ [1]
- (ii) Which one of the following is not a feature of the Dragon? [1]
- (a) big sharp teeth
 - (b) spikes on the top
 - (c) brave as a lion
 - (d) could release fire from the mouth
- (iii) What effect does the poet want to create by the simile 'mouth like a fireplace'? [1]
- (a) emphasis
 - (b) compassion
 - (c) rhyme
 - (d) pathos
- (iv) Complete the sentence appropriately. It is clear that Metaphor is the poetic device used for 'chimney for a nose' because _____. (Clue: explain how metaphor applies here) [1]
- (v) State whether the following statement is True or False based on the given extract: Custard the dragon displayed courage. [1]

Previously asked in: 2023 2/5/1 Q7(B)

♦ 7.1 The Tale of Custard the Dragon

Q37.

[6]

Answer any one of the following two questions, in 100-120 words: A desire is more personal whereas a vision has broader connotations. You have been asked to present an analysis of Valli's desire and Mandela's vision and how they are respectively fulfilled. Write this presentation draft including your insights, in about 120 words, comparing the approaches of both Valli and Mandela. You may begin like this: One acknowledges that both, Valli and Mandela _____ however, (Reference – Nelson Mandela – A Long Walk to Freedom & Madam Rides a Bus)

Previously asked in: 2024 2/2/1 Q10(a)

♦ Madam Rides the Bus

Nelson Mandela – Long Walk to Freedom

Q38.

[6]

Answer in 100-120 words.

Valli was sensitive, but at the same time, she was fearless and quite determined. Think of another character from your text book, who displayed similar character traits.

Compare and contrast the lives of Valli and the other character, that you have chosen from the text of Two Stories about Flying.

You may begin this way.

The characters who are fearless and determined from two texts are Valli and _____.

(Reference : Madam Rides a Bus & Two Stories about Flying)

Previously asked in: 2024 2/3/1 Q10(a)

♦ Madam Rides the Bus

Two Stories about Flying

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