

CBSE CLASS X

English Language & Literature (184)

QUESTION PAPER

From previous CBSE Board Exam questions

Code: OBZ149

Questions: 13

Maximum Marks: 44

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SELECTIONS USED

Source	Previous-year board
Subject	English Language & Literature
Lessons	Mijbil the Otter
Year	2022-2026
Questions selected	13

Composition — Types: 10 Short · 2 literature_extract · 1 literature_long

Q1.

[6]

Answer in 100-120 words.

Examine the role of Nature in the poems 'The Dust of Snow' and 'Fog'.

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

♦ 1.1 Dust of Snow

6.1 Fog

Q2.

[3]

Mijbil turned out to be a playful pet. Elaborate. (Mijbil the Otter)

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

♦ Mijbil the Otter

Q3.

[2]

How did Lutkins impress the lawyer? (The Hack Driver)

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

♦ Mijbil the Otter

Q4.

[2]

How was the hack driver recognised ?

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

♦ 6.1 Fog

Q5.

[3]

Maxwell decides to keep an otter as a pet. Elucidate with reference to the fact that owning a pet is a life of commitment. (Mijbil the Otter)

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

♦ Mijbil the Otter

Q6.**[3]**

Mijbil's transportation to England was no less than a nightmare for the author. Justify the statement using incidents from the lesson.

(Mijbil the Otter)

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

♦ Mijbil the Otter

Q7.**[3]**

What happened when Maxwell took Mijbil to the bathroom? (Mijbil the Otter)

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

♦ Mijbil the Otter

Q8.**[3]**

"Mijbil the Otter" sensitises human beings especially city people to wildlife. What emotions are conveyed through the association of Mijbil and Maxwell?

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

♦ Mijbil the Otter

Q9.**[3]**

The story, 'Mijbil the Otter', has it all – emotions, humour, certain surprising incidents and the freshness of a new and unique type of story. Explain how Maxwell has highlighted these in his story. (Mijbil – The Otter)

Previously asked in: 2025 2/6/1 Q8 (iii)

♦ Mijbil the Otter

Q10.

[5]

For the first twenty-four hours, Mijbil was neither hostile nor friendly; he was simply aloof and indifferent, choosing to sleep on the floor as far from my bed as possible. The second night Mijbil came on to my bed in the small hours and remained asleep in the crook of my knees until the servant brought tea in the morning, and during the day he began to lose his apathy and take a keen, much too keen, interest in his surroundings. I made a body-belt for him and took him on a lead to the bathroom, where for half an hour he went wild with joy in the water.

Read the following extract and answer the questions.

- (i) Which of the following is not a reason why Mijbil came on to Maxwell's bed in the small hours? [1]
- (A) He had started taking interest in his surroundings.
(B) He was becoming friendly with Maxwell.
(C) He wanted to play with Maxwell on his bed.
(D) He wanted to feel safe and not remain indifferent.
- (ii) Maxwell says that Mijbil was neither hostile nor friendly, he was simply aloof and indifferent for the first twenty-four hours. Give reasons in not more than 40 words. [2]
- (iii) Read the following descriptions (A)–(D) and identify which one correctly corresponds to the extract. [1]
- (A) Owning a pet is tedious and needs commitment.
(B) A pet needs his own space and time to get adjusted to his owner's environment.
(C) Maxwell decided to bring Mijbil because he was very sad to lose his dog.
(D) Maxwell and Mijbil loved travelling.
- (iv) Which characteristic trait of otters is revealed when Mijbil is taken to the bathroom? [1]

Previously asked in: 2024 2/4/1 Q6(a)

♦ Mijbil the Otter

Q11.

[5]

The fog comes
on little cat feet.
It sits looking
over harbour and city
on silent haunches
and then moves on.

Read the following extract and answer the questions.

- (i) Examine the strategic use of imagery in the above lines. [2]
- (ii) How does the poet portray the relationship between nature and the urban environment? [1]
- (iii) On the basis of the extract, select the correct option. The image of a cat moving "on little cat feet" evokes : [1]
- (A) softness
(B) roughness
(C) wilderness
(D) hardness
- (iv) Fill in the blank with the appropriate option from the brackets : In the given extract, the tone of the poet is _____ (playful and mysterious/cold and rough/pessimistic and aggressive). [1]

Previously asked in: 2026 2/3/1 Q7(b)

♦ 6.1 Fog

Q12.**[3]**

In 'Mijbil the Otter', how does the narrator's patience contrast with the reactions of fellow passengers and local people? What does this reveal about human understanding of the unfamiliar?

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

♦ Mijbil the Otter

Q13.**[3]**

What is the contribution of the extended metaphor in the poem "Fog"?

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

♦ 6.1 Fog

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