

CBSE CLASS X

# English Language & Literature (184)

## ANSWER KEY

*From previous CBSE Board Exam questions*

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|                     |                      |                          |                                    |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Code: OUQ9TX</b> | <b>Questions: 13</b> | <b>Maximum Marks: 46</b> | <b>Generated: 2026-06-15 13:05</b> |
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### SELECTIONS USED

|                    |                               |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Source             | Previous-year board           |
| Subject            | English Language & Literature |
| Lessons            | The Proposal, Supplementary   |
| Year               | 2022-2026                     |
| Questions selected | 13                            |

Composition — Types: 8 Short · 2 Long · 2 literature\_extract · 1 literature\_long

Q1.

[6]

Answer in 100-120 words.

Based on your understanding of the Play, 'The Proposal', what do you think of relationships?

Prepare a speech draft on relationships based on Natalya's and Anne Frank's characters.

You may begin this way.

Good morning everyone.

Relationships are the bond between two people based on mutual likes, understanding, need or love. I'd like to discuss relationships as portrayed in the two texts .....

You may end this way

To conclude, I'd like to say that ..... .

Thank you,

(Reference : The Proposal & from the Diary of Anne Frank)

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

♦ The Proposal, Supplementary

From the Diary of Anne Frank

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### Model Answer

Good morning everyone.

Relationships are the bond between two people based on mutual likes, understanding, need or love. I'd like to discuss relationships as portrayed in the two texts — *The Proposal* and *Diary of Anne Frank*.

In Chekhov's play, Natalya's relationship with Lomov is built on economic interest rather than genuine affection. Both quarrel over petty issues like land and dogs, yet agree to marry for practical reasons. Their relationship lacks emotional depth and is driven by social convenience.

Anne Frank, however, cherishes her relationships deeply. She treats her diary "Kitty" as a true friend, sharing her innermost feelings. She loves her grandmother and father sincerely, showing that relationships can be warm, honest and nurturing even in difficult times.

To conclude, I'd like to say that true relationships must be grounded in sincerity and understanding, not material interests. While Natalya's bond is superficial, Anne's connections remind us of the genuine warmth relationships can offer.

Thank you.

Source: *The Proposal*, Chapter 9; *From the Diary of Anne Frank*, Chapter 4

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### Explanation

- The examiner expects you to **use both texts** and contrast the two characters meaningfully.
- **Natalya** represents relationships driven by wealth/social convenience — quarrelsome yet bound by economic logic.
- **Anne Frank** represents sincere, emotionally rich relationships — with her diary, family, and teachers.
- Follow the given **opening and closing lines** exactly; marks are awarded for structure.
- Keep the comparison balanced — roughly equal space for each character.
- Avoid padding; every sentence should add a new idea.

Q2.

[4]

Russian society emerges as an important character in the play [The Proposal]. Support your answer giving instances.

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

♦ The Proposal, Supplementary

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### Model Answer

Russian society emerges as a silent but powerful character in *The Proposal* through the following instances:

1. **Landowning class and its values:** All three characters are wealthy landowners. Their identity and pride are tied to property — the quarrel over Oxen Meadows (worth only 300 roubles) reveals how social status is bound to land ownership.
1. **Marriage as an economic arrangement:** Lomov does not marry for love; he wants a practical alliance. Chubukov immediately blesses the proposal joyfully, showing that such matches were socially expected between neighbouring wealthy families.
1. **Quarrelsome, petty nature:** The characters constantly argue over trivial matters — the Meadows, then their dogs — reflecting the idle, bickering lifestyle of the Russian landowning class.
1. **Hysterical temperament:** Excessive emotional outbursts (fainting, wailing, threats of shooting oneself) are portrayed as typical behaviour, satirising Russian gentry society of the period.

Source: *The Proposal*, Chapter 9

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### Explanation

The examiner expects you to treat **society** — not just individual characters — as a character. Focus on **class**, **property obsession**, **arranged/practical marriages**, and **idle quarrelling** as features of Russian gentry society Chekhov satirises. Four clear points, each with a brief example from the play, will earn full marks. Avoid retelling the plot — analyse what each incident reveals about society.

Q3.

[3]

Engaging in discussions and disputes rarely leads to problem resolution. Support the statement with evidence from the text. (The Proposal)

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

♦ The Proposal, Supplementary

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### Model Answer

In *The Proposal*, Chekhov shows that arguments worsen situations rather than resolve them. Lomov comes with a genuine purpose — to propose marriage to Natalya — but all three characters are quarrelsome by nature. First, Lomov and Natalya dispute over the ownership of Oxen Meadows; then Chubukov joins and the argument turns bitter. The original purpose is completely forgotten. Only economic self-interest forces the proposal back on track. This proves that disputes over petty issues create chaos and never lead to resolution.

**Source:** *The Proposal*, Chapter 9

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### Explanation

The examiner expects you to:

- **State the central idea** clearly (arguments don't resolve problems).
- **Give specific evidence** from the play: the Oxen Meadows quarrel, Chubukov joining in, the proposal being forgotten.
- **Link back** to the statement at the end.

Avoid retelling the whole plot — pick only the evidence that *directly supports* the statement. Three focused points earn full marks here.

Q4.

[2]

What was the objective of Lomov's visit to Chubukov's house? (The Proposal)

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

♦ The Proposal, Supplementary

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### Model Answer

Lomov visited Chubukov's house to ask for the hand of his daughter, Natalya Stepanovna, in marriage. He came dressed formally in evening dress and white gloves, and nervously requested Chubukov's consent. Chubukov joyfully agreed, saying he had long hoped for this proposal.

**Source:** The Proposal, chapter 9

### Explanation

The examiner expects two points: (1) the **purpose** of Lomov's visit — a marriage proposal — and (2) a supporting detail such as his formal attire or Chubukov's reaction. Quoting or closely paraphrasing the play ("I've come to ask the hand of your daughter, Natalya Stepanovna, in marriage") adds accuracy. Do not drift into the quarrel over Oxen Meadows — that is not the objective of his visit.

Q5.

[3]

"Oh, what a burden, Lord, to be the father of a grown-up daughter!"

Explain what this line conveys about Chubukov as a father.

(The Proposal)

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

♦ The Proposal, Supplementary

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### Model Answer

The line "Oh, what a burden, Lord, to be the father of a grown-up daughter!" reveals Chubukov's exasperation and helplessness as a father. He desperately wants Natalya to get married — he was overjoyed when Lomov came to propose, calling it his "continual desire." Yet he watches the proposal nearly collapse due to senseless quarrelling, much of it caused by Natalya herself. The line shows he feels trapped: he must manage his difficult daughter's marriage prospects while she drives away the very suitor he welcomed. His frustration is comic but also genuine — he even threatens to "cut his throat" in despair. He is an anxious, self-pitying father whose desire for a good match is repeatedly frustrated by circumstances beyond his control.

Source: *The Proposal*, Chapter 9

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### Explanation

The examiner expects you to link the quote directly to Chubukov's behaviour throughout the play: his eagerness for the proposal, his panic when Lomov storms out, and his helpless frustration. Don't just paraphrase the line — show *why* he feels this way using evidence from the text. Three key moments to recall: his joy at Lomov's proposal, his "I'll shoot myself!" panic, and his final exhausted blessing of the couple.

Q6.

[2]

Write a brief character sketch of Lomov. (The Proposal)

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

♦ The Proposal, Supplementary

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### Model Answer

Ivan Vassilevitch Lomov is a wealthy, middle-aged landowner of thirty-five. He is nervous, hypochondriac, and highly excitable — he suffers from palpitations, a twitching eyebrow, and a numb foot. Though he comes with good intentions to propose marriage, he is quarrelsome and argumentative, picking fights over trivial matters like Oxen Meadows and dogs.

### Explanation

Examiners expect two key aspects: Lomov's physical/medical traits (hypochondria, nervousness) and his personality flaws (quarrelsome, petty, argumentative). The textbook itself describes him as "large and hearty, but very suspicious." Quote or paraphrase from the play briefly. Avoid padding — 2 marks needs only 2–3 focused points.

Q7.

[4]

Natalya and her father Chubukov 'turn around' when Lomov puts his proposal in the open. As a reader briefly describe what you think of Natalya and Chubukov from the play "The Proposal".

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

♦ The Proposal, Supplementary

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### Model Answer

Natalya and Chubukov both reveal themselves as greedy, quarrelsome, and hypocritical characters driven by self-interest.

**Chubukov** initially suspects Lomov has come to borrow money and tries to send him away, but the moment Lomov mentions marriage, he becomes overly affectionate, claiming he has "always loved" Lomov like a son. This sudden change exposes his insincerity — he values the proposal only for economic and social gain.

**Natalya** is equally quarrelsome and stubborn. She quarrels fiercely over the Oxen Meadows, calling Lomov an intriguer, but the moment she learns he came to propose, she bursts into hysterics and desperately demands he be brought back. This "turnaround" reveals she is eager to marry — as Chubukov says, "like a lovesick cat" — but is too proud to show it.

Both characters are self-centred, hot-tempered, and materialistic, interested in the proposal mainly to secure a financially advantageous match.

Source: *The Proposal*, Chapter 9

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### Explanation

- The question asks for a character assessment of **both** Natalya and Chubukov, focused on their "turnaround" after the proposal is revealed.
- Examiners look for: textual evidence (Chubukov's greed, his sudden warmth; Natalya's hysterics after learning of the proposal), and a brief judgement of their character traits.
- Key terms to use: hypocritical, quarrelsome, materialistic, self-interested.
- Don't write a plot summary — give character judgements backed by specific moments from the play.

Q8.

[3]

How did Chubukov react when Lomov asked for the hand of his daughter in marriage ?

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

♦ The Proposal, Supplementary

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**Model Answer**

When Lomov asked for the hand of Natalya Stepanovna in marriage, Chubukov reacted with great joy and excitement. He exclaimed "By Jove! Say it again — I didn't hear it all!" and embraced and kissed Lomov warmly. He shed tears of happiness, saying he had always loved Lomov like his own son and had been hoping for this proposal for a long time. He also assured Lomov that Natalya would consent, saying she was "like a lovesick cat." He then rushed off to call his daughter.

Source: *The Proposal*, Chapter 9**Explanation**

The examiner expects you to cover three aspects: Chubukov's initial suspicion (he thought Lomov came to borrow money), his sudden joyful reaction on hearing the proposal, and his emotional response (embracing, shedding tears, giving assurances about Natalya). Note the contrast between his aside ("He's come to borrow money. Shan't give him any!") and his outward joy — this hints at insincerity, which is worth mentioning if marks permit.

Q9.

[3]

How does Natalya provoke Lomov into a quarrel?

Previously asked in: 2023 2/2/1 Q9 (c)

♦ The Proposal, Supplementary

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**Model Answer**

When Lomov comes to propose, he mentions that his Oxen Meadows border the Chubukov estate. Natalya immediately interrupts and claims the Meadows belong to her family, not Lomov. She firmly insists, "They're ours, ours, ours!" and threatens to send her mowers there that very day. This assertion of ownership angers Lomov, turning what should have been a marriage proposal into a heated quarrel over land. Natalya's stubborn refusal to accept Lomov's claim, and her aggressive tone, provoke him into shouting and exchanging insults.

Source: *The Proposal*, Chapter 9

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**Explanation**

The examiner expects you to identify the **trigger** (mention of Oxen Meadows), Natalya's **immediate contradicting claim**, and her **aggressive/stubborn stance** as the three elements that provoke the quarrel. Note that the quarrel starts *before* Natalya even knows Lomov has come to propose — the irony is key to the play's humour and worth mentioning briefly. Avoid retelling the whole plot; focus on *how* Natalya provokes, not just *that* they quarrel.

Q10.

[3]

What was Chubukov's reaction when he discovered the actual purpose behind Lomov's visit ? (The Proposal)

Previously asked in: 2026 2/3/1 Q8 (iv)

♦ The Proposal, Supplementary

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### Model Answer

Initially, Chubukov suspected that Lomov had come to **borrow money** and privately resolved not to lend any. However, when Lomov revealed that he had come to **ask for Natalya's hand in marriage**, Chubukov's reaction changed completely. He became overjoyed, embraced and kissed Lomov warmly, shed tears of happiness, and exclaimed that it had been his "continual desire." He declared he had always loved Lomov "as if he were his own son" and rushed off excitedly to call Natalya. His dramatic transformation from suspicion to elation suggests his joy was genuine, driven largely by the economic and social advantage of the match.

Source: *The Proposal*, Chapter 9

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### Explanation

- **Key contrast:** The examiner expects you to mention **both** reactions — the initial suspicion (borrowing money) AND the joyful response to the actual proposal.
- Chubukov's sincerity is debatable (he seems opportunistic), but for a 3-mark answer, briefly noting it adds depth without over-explaining.
- Stick to textual evidence: "shed a tear," "embraced and kissed," "continual desire," "as if you were my own son."
- Do **not** drift into the Oxen Meadows quarrel — that's a different part of the play.



Q11.

[3]

What was Chubukov's reaction when he heard about Lomov's proposal for his daughter's hand? (The Proposal)

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

♦ The Proposal, Supplementary

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**Model Answer**

When Lomov formally asked for Natalya's hand in marriage, Chubukov reacted with overwhelming joy and delight. He exclaimed, "By Jove! Say it again — I didn't hear it all!" He then embraced and kissed Lomov warmly, shed tears of happiness, and declared that he had always hoped and desired for this proposal. He said, "I've always loved you, my angel, as if you were my own son." He also confidently assured Lomov that Natalya would consent, hinting she was already "like a lovesick cat."

Source: *The Proposal*, Anton Chekhov — Chapter 9

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**Explanation**

- The examiner wants: Chubukov's **immediate emotional reaction** (joy, tears, embracing) + his **words/expressions** showing delight + his **aside** (he earlier suspected Lomov came to borrow money, showing his insincerity) — briefly hinting at this contrast earns full marks.
- Quote at least **one direct line** from the play to support your answer.
- Do **not** go into the subsequent quarrel about Oxen Meadows — that is a different part of the play.
- 3 marks = ~3 clear points with a supporting detail or quote. This answer covers: reaction, words used, confidence about Natalya's consent.

Q12.

[5]

Lomov : Hear me out, I implore you ! The peasants of your father's grandfather, as I have already had the honour of explaining to you, used to bake bricks for my aunt's grandmother. Now my aunt's grandmother, wishing to make them a present.

Natalya : I can't make head or tail of all this about aunts and grandfathers and grandmothers. The Meadows are ours, that's all.

Lomov : Mine

Natalya : Ours ! You can go proving it for two days on end.

Read the given extract and answer the questions.

(i) What is Lomov pleading for ? [1]

- (A) to be heard
- (B) bricks for his aunt's grandmother
- (C) documents of the Meadows
- (D) for two days time to prove himself

(ii) What effect does the following sentence have on Natalya ? Why ? 'The peasants of your father's grandfather ..... used to bake bricks for my aunt's grandmother.' [2]

(iii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket : The use of the phrase 'can't make head or tail' adds to a sense of \_\_\_\_\_ (confusion/realization) to the extract. [1]

(iv) What is Lomov trying to prove ? [1]

Previously asked in: 2025 2/5/1 Q6(b)

♦ The Proposal, Supplementary

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### Model Answer

(i) (A) to be heard

(ii) The sentence confuses and irritates Natalya. The long, complicated reference to "peasants of your father's grandfather" and "aunt's grandmother" is so convoluted that Natalya says she "can't make head or tail" of it. She finds the argument irrelevant and unnecessarily complicated, so she dismisses it entirely and simply asserts that the Meadows belong to her family.

(iii) The use of the phrase 'can't make head or tail' adds to a sense of **confusion** in the extract.

(iv) Lomov is trying to prove that the Oxen Meadows belong to him. He is tracing a long ancestral history — involving his aunt's grandmother and Natalya's father's grandfather — to establish his ownership of the Meadows.

Source: *The Proposal* (Anton Chekhov), Extract

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### Explanation

- (i) "I implore you" directly means Lomov is begging to be heard — option (A).
- (ii) For 2 marks, state the *effect* (confusion/irritation) AND the *reason* (complicated ancestry argument). Both are needed for full marks.
- (iii) "Can't make head or tail" is an idiom meaning unable to understand — so **confusion** is correct.
- (iv) The central dispute in the extract is ownership of the Meadows — keep the answer focused on that single point.

Q13.

[5]

Lomov : But you can see from the documents, honoured Natalya Stepanovna. Oxen Meadows, its true were once the subject of dispute, but now everybody knows they are mine. There's nothing to argue about. You see my aunts grandmother gave the free use of these Meadows in perpetuity to the peasants of your father's grandfather, in return for which they were to make bricks for her. The peasants belonging to your father's grandfather had the free use of Meadows for forty years, and had got into the habit of regarding them as their own, when it happened that.....

Natalya : No, it isn't at all like that ! Both grandfather and great grandfather reckoned that their land extended to Burnt Marsh - which means Oxen Meadows were ours. I don't see what there is to argue about, its simply silly.

Read the extract given below and attempt the questions that follow :

- (i) The subject of dispute was regarding [1]  
 (a) free use of Meadows.  
 (b) making of bricks.  
 (c) peasants using Meadows.  
 (d) ownership of Meadows.
- (ii) Find the word from the extract which means 'continuance' : [1]  
 (a) dispute  
 (b) perpetuity  
 (c) belonging  
 (d) reckoned
- (iii) Lomov's aunt's grandmother gave Oxen Meadows to Natalya's father's grandfather in lieu of ..... [1]
- (iv) According to Natalya why did Oxen Meadows belong to them ? [1]
- (v) Fill in the blank with ONE WORD only : The peasants had free use of Meadows for ..... years. [1]

Previously asked in: 2023 2/4/1 Q6(B)

♦ The Proposal, Supplementary

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### Model Answer

- (i) (d) ownership of Meadows.
- (ii) (b) perpetuity
- (iii) Lomov's aunt's grandmother gave Oxen Meadows to Natalya's father's grandfather's peasants in lieu of **making bricks for her**.
- (iv) According to Natalya, Oxen Meadows belonged to them because both her grandfather and great grandfather reckoned that their land extended to Burnt Marsh, which included Oxen Meadows.
- (v) The peasants had free use of Meadows for **forty** years.

Source: *The Proposal*, Extract passage

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### Explanation

- (i) The core dispute is about who **owns** the Meadows, not merely their use or brick-making.
- (ii) *Perpetuity* means "forever/continuance" — a standard vocabulary question; look for the word that fits the meaning given.
- (iii) Copy the reason directly from Lomov's speech: peasants were to **make bricks** in return.

- **(iv)** Use Natalya's own words about the land extending to **Burnt Marsh** — that is her entire argument.
- **(v)** The number **forty** is stated explicitly in Lomov's dialogue — never guess.

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