

CBSE CLASS X

English Language & Literature (184)

QUESTION PAPER

From previous CBSE Board Exam questions

Code: PMPRC1

Questions: 33

Maximum Marks: 131

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SELECTIONS USED

Source	Previous-year board
Subject	English Language & Literature
Lessons	A Letter to God
Year	2022-2026
Questions selected	33

Composition — Types: 20 Short · 8 literature_long · 5 literature_extract

Q1.

[6]

Answer any one of the following two questions in 100–120 words:

Analyse and evaluate the role of faith in 'A Letter to God' and 'The Sermon at Benares'.

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

♦ A Letter to God

The Sermon at Benares

Q2.

[3]

What idea does the Postmaster come up with? What did he do to stick to his resolution? (A Letter to God)

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

♦ A Letter to God

Q3.

[6]

How does Lencho's faith in God, as shown in 'A Letter to God' contrast with the skepticism of Kisa Gotami in 'Sermon at Benares'. Support your answer with details from the two texts.

Previously asked in: 2026 2/5/1 Q10(A)

♦ A Letter to God

Q4.

[3]

Why did the night after the rains turn sorrowful for Lencho ? (A letter to God)

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

♦ A Letter to God

Q5.

[3]

Explain the irony in the chapter, "A Letter to God".

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

♦ A Letter to God

Q6.**[3]**

Illustrate Lencho's unwavering faith in the Divine. (A Letter to God)

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

♦ A Letter to God

Q7.**[3]**

In what manner did Lencho's cornfield suffer damage? Did he hold any expectations of receiving assistance? (A Letter to God)

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

♦ A Letter to God

Q8.**[6]**

Forgiveness is the foundation of a cordial relationship. Do you agree? How does Lencho's act of writing a letter to God highlight the importance of faith in 'A Letter to God'?

Previously asked in: 2023 2/5/1 Q10(a)

♦ A Letter to God

Q9.**[3]**

What did Lencho hope for and why?

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

♦ A Letter to God

Q10.**[3]**

Who read the letter sent by Lencho? What did he do then?

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

♦ A Letter to God

Q11.**[3]**

Lencho's last letter to God depicts astute faith on one level and irony on the other. Bring about the element of faith and irony in the situation. (A Letter to God)

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

♦ A Letter to God

Q12.**[3]**

What are the raindrops compared to and why ?

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

♦ A Letter to God

Q13.

[5]

The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree
Has given my heart
A change of mood

Read the following extract and answer the questions:

- (i) Fill the blank to complete the sentence. Shaking down of dust of snow gave the speaker a change of heart by _____. [1]
- (ii) How does the interaction between the natural elements (crow, snow, hemlock tree) contribute to the speaker's emotional transformation in the poem? Answer in about 40 words. [2]
- (iii) 'Dust of Snow' is referred to as: [1]
- A mist
 - B dust of branches
 - C snow residue
 - D snowflakes
- (iv) The crow and the hemlock tree represent _____. 1. sorrow 2. elation 3. hope 4. anxiety 5. enthusiasm [1]
- A 1 only
 - B 2, 3 and 5
 - C 4 only
 - D 1, 4 and 5

Previously asked in: 2025 2/3/1 Q7(a)

◆ 1.1 Dust of Snow

Q14.

[5]

Not a leaf remained on the trees. The corn was totally destroyed. The flowers were gone from the plants. Lencho's soul was filled with sadness. When the storm had passed, he stood in the middle of the field and said to his sons, "A plague of locusts would have left more than this. The hail has left nothing. This year we will have no corn." That night was a sorrowful one.
"All our work, for nothing."
"There's no one who can help us."
"We'll all go hungry this year."

Read the following extract and answer the questions.

(i) Why were there no leaves left on the trees ? [1]

- A The locusts ate them up.
- B An earthquake had occurred.
- C There was a hailstorm.
- D The animals grazed on them.

(ii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the brackets. Lencho felt _____ (jubilant/devastated) when he saw his destroyed corn fields. [1]

(iii) When Lencho says, "All our work, for nothing," what does he refer to ? Explain in about 40 words. [2]

(iv) Why would Lencho have preferred a plague of locusts to a hailstorm ? [1]

Previously asked in: 2025 2/1/1 Q6(a)

♦ A Letter to God

Q15.

[5]

The postmaster — a fat, amiable fellow — also broke out laughing, but almost immediately he turned serious and, tapping the letter to his desk, commented, "What faith! I wish I had the faith of the man who wrote this letter. Starting up a correspondence with God!"
So, in order not to shake the writer's faith in God, the postmaster came up with an idea: answer the letter.

Read the following extract and answer the questions.

(i) Justify the following statement : What faith! I wish I had the faith of the man who wrote this letter. [1]

(ii) Fill in the blank with a correct word from the brackets. The postmaster turned serious on seeing the letter addressed to God because he realized that the writer had _____ (immense/limited) faith in God. [1]

(iii) Examine the portrayal of the postmaster in the given extract. [2]

(iv) Why did the postmaster initially laugh on seeing the letter ? [1]

- (A) It was a blank sheet of paper.
- (B) He lacked faith in God.
- (C) He had received such letters earlier.
- (D) He had never known such an address.

Previously asked in: 2026 2/3/1 Q6(a)

♦ A Letter to God

Q16.

[5]

Some say the world will end in fire some say in ice.
From what I've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favour fire.
(Stanza 1)

But if it had to perish twice,
I think I know enough of hate
To say that for destruction ice
Is also great
And would suffice.

Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given:

- I Complete the following suitably: According to Robert Frost, fire refers to _____. [1]
- II Why does the poet believe both fire and ice can destroy the world equally? [2]
- III Fill the blank with one word: In the line "But if it has to perish twice", 'it' refers to the _____. [1]
- IV Select the option with same rhyme scheme as lines in Stanza 1: [1]
 - A They are all gone away, The House is shut and still, There is nothing more to say.
 - B Tell me not, in mournful numbers, Life is but an empty dream! For the soul is dead that slumbers.
 - C The dog chased the ball down the lane, He ran with such incredible speed, His tail was a blur, a joyful glee.
 - D The Sun is high, The clouds drift past, In the blue sky which is so vast.

Previously asked in: 2026 2/1/1 Q7(A)

◆ 1.2 Fire and Ice

Q17.

[5]

Some say the world will end in fire
Some say in ice.
From what I've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favour fire.

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

- (i) The speaker offers evidence to support his preference for one theory over the other. Mention the evidence. [1]
- (ii) What is the prediction of the poet about how the world will come to an end? Answer in about 40 words. [2]
- (iii) "Fire" and "Ice" are used in the poem as _____. [1]
 - (A) similes
 - (B) metaphors
 - (C) repetition
 - (D) oxymorons
- (iv) Comment on the overall mood of the extract. [1]

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

◆ 1.2 Fire and Ice

Q18.**[6]**

Comment on the reactions and feelings of Lencho and Nelson Mandela when they faced challenges in their lives.
(A Letter to God and Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom)

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

◆ A Letter to God

Nelson Mandela – Long Walk to Freedom

Q19.**[3]**

What mood of the poet is reflected in the poem 'Dust of Snow' initially? What images are used by the poet to bring about the effect? Comment.

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

◆ 1.1 Dust of Snow

Q20.**[3]**

In the poem "Dust of Snow", the 'hemlock tree' and the 'crow' hold specific meanings. Elaborate on how these symbols are utilized within the context of the poem.

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

◆ 1.1 Dust of Snow

Q21.**[2]**

Do you agree with the poet Walt Whitman's perception of animal life. Justify. (Animals)

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

◆ 1.1 Dust of Snow

Q22.**[2]**

Why does the poet wish to 'turn' and live with animals? (Animals)

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

◆ 1.1 Dust of Snow

Q23.**[3]**

'Dust of Snow', by Robert Frost is a poem about nature and simplicity. Elaborate.

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

◆ 1.1 Dust of Snow

Q24.**[3]**

How does the short structure of poem 'Dust of Snow' enhance its message about emotional renewal? Support your answer briefly.

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

◆ 1.1 Dust of Snow

Q25.**[3]**

"Dust of Snow" presents the polar opposites black and white in a colour pallet. Justify, that 'black' and 'white' signify something deeper than the superficial meaning in the poem.

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

◆ 1.1 Dust of Snow

Q26.**[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

Q27.**[3]**

It is our attitude towards a situation that makes it positive or negative. Do you agree with it? Express your views with reference to the poem, 'Dust of Snow'.

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

◆ 1.1 Dust of Snow

Q28.**[3]**

How far would you agree that one's positivity can bring in a spark of brightness even in adverse circumstances?

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

◆ 1.1 Dust of Snow

Q29.**[3]**

The poet considers grief as temporary. Explain with reference to the poem.

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

◆ 1.1 Dust of Snow

Q30.**[6]**

Answer any one of the following two questions in 100–120 words:

You have been chosen to address the school assembly, to speak on the epistemology of loss and the resilience of the human spirit during times of crisis. Prepare the speech draft, with reference to the prescribed poems and/or prose that offer a powerful insight into how to deal with loss and the resilience of the human spirit required during times of crisis.

You may begin this way: Good morning everyone. Today, we are going to explore poems and/or prose that offer a powerful insight into how to deal with loss and the resilience of the human spirit required during times of crisis.

You may end this way: Thank you.

Previously asked in: 2024 2/5/1 Q10(b)

◆ 1.1 Dust of Snow

Q31.**[3]**

In the poem 'Fire and Ice', how does the intense human emotion symbolised by fire, lead to the destruction of the world?

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

◆ 1.2 Fire and Ice

Q32.**[6]**

Answer in about 100-120 words: Analyse the similarities and differences between the young seagull from "Two stories about flying" and Lencho from "A Letter to God", and provide a rationale for the significant role faith plays in challenging and adverse situations in life.

Previously asked in: 2025 2/4/1 Q10.II

◆ Two Stories about Flying

A Letter to God

Q33.**[6]**

How do Lencho in 'A Letter to God' and Kisa Gotami in 'The Sermon at Benares' respond to their experiences of suffering and loss? How did they overcome their respective losses?

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

♦ The Sermon at Benares

A Letter to God

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