

CBSE CLASS X

English Language & Literature (184)

QUESTION PAPER

From previous CBSE Board Exam questions

Code: SIMEHZ Questions: 12 Maximum Marks: 59 Generated: 2026-06-15 13:05

SELECTIONS USED

Source	Previous-year board
Subject	English Language & Literature
Lessons	Footprints without Feet
Year	2022-2026
Questions selected	12

Composition — Types: 5 literature_long · 4 literature_extract · 3 Short

Q1.

[6]

Answer in 100-120 words.

Griffin's brilliance as a man of science fades before his darker traits. Give reasons from the text to support your answer. (Footprints Without Feet)

Previously asked in: 2024 2/3/1 Q11(a)

♦ Footprints without Feet

Q2.

[6]

Answer in about 100-120 words: Evaluate Griffin's character as a brilliant scientist and a lawless person. (Footprints without Feet)

Previously asked in: 2025 2/4/1 Q11.I

♦ Footprints without Feet

Q3.

[3]

Discuss the character development of Griffin, as he grapples with the repercussions of his actions and attempts to navigate a world, where his once extraordinary abilities have become a burden. (Footprints without Feet)

Previously asked in: 2025 2/1/1 Q9 (iii)

♦ Footprints without Feet

Q4.

[3]

Why does Griffin, despite his scientific genius, end up leading a destructive life? (Footprints Without Feet)

Previously asked in: 2026 2/5/1 Q9 (i)

♦ Footprints without Feet

Q5.

[6]

Answer any one of the following two questions, in 100-120 words: Imagine that Griffin's conscience pricks him and he decides to write a diary entry, about misusing science and endangering society, in the context of his own experience. Write this diary entry, as Griffin, in about 120 words. (Reference – Footprints without Feet by H.G. Wells)

Previously asked in: 2024 2/2/1 Q11(a)

♦ Footprints without Feet

Q6.

[5]

The two boys started in surprise at the fresh muddy imprints of a pair of bare feet. What was a barefooted man doing on the steps of a house in the middle of London ? And where was the man ?

As they gazed, a remarkable sight met, their eyes. A fresh footmark appeared from nowhere !

Further footprints followed, one after another, descending the steps and progressing down the street. The boys followed, fascinated, until the muddy impressions became fainter and fainter and at last disappeared altogether.

Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow :

(i) The boys were surprised to see a barefooted man in London because _____. [1]

- (a) everybody in London moved around in shoes.
- (b) it was very cold in London to move around barefoot.
- (c) the muddy footprints were fresh.
- (d) only a homeless person would walk barefoot.

(ii) Select the option that correctly captures the usage of the word 'started' in the above extract. [1]

- (a) When I reached the theatre the movie had already started.
- (b) The fire started from the kitchen.
- (c) On hearing the bell ring, the sleeping Raman started and jumped out of bed.
- (d) Taking a deep breath, Ravi started down the stairs.

(iii) The boys reaction can best be described as [1]

- (a) captivated, bored
- (b) repulsed, absorbed
- (c) curious, unhappy
- (d) captivated, interested

(iv) Complete the analogy by selecting the suitable word from the text : Disappeared : Vanished :: Extraordinary : _____ [1]

(v) According to the extract the boys were _____ when they saw the footmark. 1. terrified 2. nervous 3. delighted 4. curious 5. puzzled Select the correct option : [1]

- (a) 1, 2, 4
- (b) Only 1
- (c) 4 and 5
- (d) 2 and 3

Previously asked in: 2023 2/6/1 Q6(b)

♦ Footprints without Feet

Q7.

[6]

Elucidate with reference to the text. (Question relates to a supplementary reader text; exact phrasing partially obscured in OCR layer.)

Previously asked in: 2023 2/2/1 Q11(a)

♦ Footprints without Feet

Q8.

[5]

His landlord disliked him and tried to eject him. In revenge, Griffin set fire to the house. To get away without being seen he had to remove his clothes. Thus it was that he became a homeless wanderer, without clothes, without money and quite invisible — until he happened to step in some mud, and left footprints as he walked!

Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

(i) The landlord tried to eject him because [1]

- (a) he was a lawless person.
- (b) he had set his house on fire.
- (c) he disliked him.
- (d) he was a drug addict.

(ii) Fill in the blank with one word only. Griffin deliberately removed his clothes because he wanted to become _____. [1]

(iii) Select the option that correctly captures the application of the word 'fire' as used in this extract. [1]

- (a) Griffin said that he would fire the manager.
- (b) The soldiers opened fire at the enemy.
- (c) His remarks provoked heavy fire from the political opponents.
- (d) The Amar Palace was completely destroyed by the fire.

(iv) Griffin's invisibility was revealed because [1]

- (a) he jumped into the water with a splash.
- (b) he wore clothes.
- (c) he left muddy footprints.
- (d) he stepped in mud.

(v) Which of the following is not true with reference to the given extract? [1]

- (a) Griffin had become penniless.
- (b) Griffin promised to behave himself.
- (c) Griffin revealed himself by his muddy footprints.
- (d) No one could see Griffin when he took off his clothes.

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

♦ Footprints without Feet

Q9.**[5]**

Mrs. Hall almost fell down the stairs in hysterics. She was convinced that the room was haunted by spirits and that the stranger had somehow caused these to enter into her furniture.

Attempt any one of the given extracts:

- (i) Mrs. Hall tripped because _____. [1]
(a) the floor was oily.
(b) she was standing on a chair.
(c) she was in a state of panic.
(d) the door was slammed.
- (ii) Mrs. Hall suspected everything in the room was put under a spell of witchcraft by _____. [1]
- (iii) Fill in the blank with one word only: Mrs. Hall was afraid that spirits had entered _____. [1]
- (iv) According to the extract, the feeling of Mrs. Hall can be best described as (1) stunned (2) happy (3) awestruck (4) nervous (5) outraged (6) agitated Select the correct option: [1]
(a) (2) and (4)
(b) (3) and (6)
(c) (5) and (6)
(d) (1) and (6)
- (v) 'Spirits' in the above lines means the same as [1]
(a) ghosts
(b) conscience
(c) ego
(d) attitude

Previously asked in: 2023 2/1/1 Q6(b)

♦ Footprints without Feet

Q10.**[3]**

Scientists contribute to make the world a better place. Griffin is an antithesis to this statement. Justify. (Footprints Without Feet)

Previously asked in: 2024 2/1/1 Q9 (i)

♦ Footprints without Feet

Q11.**[6]**

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

A character arc is the transformation or development of a character throughout a story and refers to the changes a character undergoes as a result of his/her experiences, challenges and interactions with other characters.

In light of the above information, trace the character arc of Griffin in H.G. Wells' 'Footprints without Feet'.

Previously asked in: 2024 2/5/1 Q11(b)

♦ Footprints without Feet

Q12.

[5]

The arrival of a stranger at an inn in winter was in any case an unusual event. A stranger of such uncommon appearance set all tongues wagging. Mrs. Hall, the landlord's wife, made every effort to be friendly. But Griffin had no desire to talk, and told her, "My reason for coming to Iping is a desire for solitude. I do not wish to be disturbed in my work. Besides, an accident has affected my face." Satisfied that her guest was an eccentric scientist, and in view of the fact that he had paid her in advance, Mrs. Hall was prepared to excuse his strange habits and irritable temper.

Read the following extract and answer the questions.

- (i) State any one inference about Griffin from the given context: "My reason for coming to Iping is a desire for solitude. I do not wish to be disturbed in my work. Besides, an accident has affected my face." [1]
- (ii) State True or False: Even though Mrs. Hall was satisfied with Griffin, she was skeptical to excuse his strange habits and irritable temper. [1]
- (iii) It was not difficult for Griffin to convince the landlord and his wife about his strange appearance and eccentric behaviour. Elaborate in about 40 words with reference to the context. [2]
- (iv) Which phrase would correctly substitute the underlined phrase in the given sentence from the extract? A stranger of such uncommon appearance _____. [1]

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

♦ Footprints without Feet

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