

CBSE CLASS X

English Language & Literature (184)

QUESTION PAPER

From previous CBSE Board Exam questions

Code: ZDTYAO Questions: 17 Maximum Marks: 78 Generated: 2026-06-15 13:05

SELECTIONS USED

Source	Previous-year board
Subject	English Language & Literature
Lessons	The Thief's Story
Year	2022-2026
Questions selected	17

Composition — Types: 7 literature_long · 7 Short · 3 literature_extract

Q1.

[6]

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

Anil's acceptance and forgiveness of the thief demonstrates empathy and generosity. Elaborate.

(The Thief's Story)

Previously asked in: 2025 2/2/1 Q11 (a)

♦ The Thief's Story

Q2.

[6]

Answer in about 100-120 words :

Trust and compassion can reform a person. Justify this statement in the light of the lesson 'The Thief's Story'.

Previously asked in: 2023 2/4/1 Q11(b)

♦ The Thief's Story

Q3.

[6]

Hari Singh says – "He knew it but neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything." Anil successfully addressed the situation by not addressing it at all. Elaborate based on your reading of The Thief's Story.

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

♦ The Thief's Story

Q4.

[3]

What does the thief say about the different reactions of the people when they are robbed?

Previously asked in: 2023 2/5/1 Q9 (c)

♦ The Thief's Story

Q5.

[3]

How was the Hari Singh's 'appealing smile' at the end different from similar smiles of his on earlier occasions ? (The Thief's Story)

Previously asked in: 2025 2/5/1 Q9 (iii)

♦ The Thief's Story

Q6.**[3]**

How did Hari Singh justify his action of returning to Anil?

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

♦ The Thief's Story

Q7.**[3]**

Why does Anil not hand over Hari Singh to the police?

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

♦ The Thief's Story

Q8.**[3]**

Why does Hari Singh find it pleasant to work for Anil, though he was a thief? (The Thief's Story)

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

♦ The Thief's Story

Q9.**[6]**

Answer in 100-120 words.

Hari Singh says – "He knew it but neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything." Anil successfully addressed the situation by not addressing it all. Elaborate based on your reading of 'The Thief's Story'.

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

♦ The Thief's Story

Q10.**[3]**

Why did Hari Singh smile in his most appealing way towards the end of the story ?

Previously asked in: 2023 2/6/1 Q9 (a)

♦ The Thief's Story

Q11.**[6]**

Imagine that Hari Singh from 'The Thief's Story' by Ruskin Bond, writes a diary entry, exploring the theme of human values and relations that are essential in life and can transform a person in the context of his own experience. Write this diary entry as Hari Singh.

(The Thief's Story)

Previously asked in: 2024 2/4/1 Q11(a)

♦ The Thief's Story

Q12.**[6]**

Hari's character evolves from being deceitful and opportunistic to remorseful and seeking redemption.

In the light of the above information, describe how his decision to return the money signifies a moral awakening in him and a newfound appreciation for Anil's kindness and mentorship.

(The Thief's Story)

Previously asked in: 2025 2/3/1 Q11(b)

♦ The Thief's Story

Q13.**[3]**

How do Anil's initial reaction to Hari Singh's cooking and his subsequent actions reflect Anil's evolving relationship with Hari Singh?

(The Thief's Story)

Previously asked in: 2025 2/3/1 Q9 (i)

♦ The Thief's Story

Q14.**[6]**

Anil's love, trust and compassion influenced Hari Singh's inner conflict and played a crucial role in transforming him.

Elucidate. (The Thief's Story)

Previously asked in: 2026 2/3/1 Q11(a)

♦ The Thief's Story

Q15.**[5]**

I went back to the bazaar and sat down in the shelter of the clock tower. The clock showed midnight. I felt for the notes. They were damp from the rain.

Anil's Money. In the morning he would probably have given me two or three rupees to go to the cinema, but now I had it all.

I couldn't cook his meals, run to the bazaar, or learn to write whole sentences any more.

I had forgotten about them in the excitement of the theft. Whole sentences, I knew, could one day bring me more than a few hundred rupees. It was a simple matter to steal- and sometimes just as simple to be caught.

Read the given extract and answer the questions:

(i) Which of the following is NOT a reason why Hari Singh thinks he would not be able to write whole sentences? [1]

- (A) Anil would not be there to teach him.
- (B) He had robbed Anil and left.
- (C) He would not go back to Anil to learn.
- (D) He had no money to take admission in school.

(ii) Why is it fair to say that Hari Singh's tone, when he says "I couldn't cook his meals, run to the bazaar or learn to write whole sentences any more," is filled with remorse and regret? Answer in about 40 words. [2]

(iii) What do you infer about Hari Singh from this statement? "Whole sentences, I knew, could one day bring me more than a few hundred rupees." [1]

(iv) State True or False with reference to the given extract. The reason Hari Singh was filled with a feeling of guilt was because Anil trusted him. [1]

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

♦ The Thief's Story

Q16.

[5]

There was a fifty rupee note between his fingers. My heart sank. I thought I had been discovered. "I made some money yesterday," he explained. "Now you'll be paid regularly." My spirits rose. But when I took the note, I saw it was still wet from the night's rain. "Today we'll start writing sentences," he said. He knew. But neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything.

Read the given extract and answer the questions.

- (i) In the context of the given extract : What was the feelings UNLIKELY to have been on seeing 'a fifty rupee note between his fingers'? [1]
- (A) joyous
(B) sad
(C) unhappy
(D) worried
- (ii) How does the prospect of being paid regularly affect the narrator's motivation and hope for the future? Answer in about 40 words. [2]
- (iii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket : The person spoken about did not let the narrator realise that his act of stealing was caught. It reflects the _____ (nobility / dishonesty) of his character. [1]
- (iv) Compare the meanings of the expressions : "My heart sank", and "My spirits rose". [1]

Previously asked in: 2025 2/6/1 Q6(b)

♦ The Thief's Story

Q17.

[5]

Later, he patted me on the head and said never mind, he'd teach me to cook. He also taught me to write my name and said he would soon teach me to write whole sentences and to add numbers. I was grateful. I knew that once I could write like an educated man there would be no limit to what I could achieve. It was quite pleasant working for Anil. I made the tea in the morning and then would take my time buying the day's supplies, usually making a profit of about a rupee a day. I think he knew I made a little money this way but he did not seem to mind.

Read the following extract and answer the questions.

- (i) What does the following line tell us about the character of Anil ? "I think he knew I made a little money this way but he did not seem to mind." [1]
- (ii) Which of the following best describes the realization Hari Singh had while working for Anil ? [1]
- A that he would become a rich person one day
B that Anil was a very intelligent master but a miser
C that he would be able to accomplish a lot if he gets educated
D that Anil made a lot of money from his job
- (iii) What did Anil promise to teach Hari Singh, and how did Hari Singh feel about the opportunity to learn ? Answer in about 40 words. [2]
- (iv) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the brackets. The narrator earned extra money by making a/an _____ (profit/investment) of about a rupee a day. [1]

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

♦ The Thief's Story

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