CBSE EXAMINATION PAPER-2025

ENGLISH

(Solved)

Time allowed : 3 hours | Maximum Marks : 80

General Instructions :

Read the following instructions carefully and follow them :

i. This question paper contains **34 questions.** All questions are **compulsory.**

ii. This question paper is divided into **8 sections.**

iii. **Section A** – questions number **1 to 4** are case based questions

iv. **Section B** – questions number **5 to 6** are unseen passage

v. **Section C** – questions number **7 to 14** are grammar short

vi. **Section D** – questions number **15 to 18** are grammar mcqs

vii. **Section E** – questions number **19 to 26** are short answer

viii. **Section F** – questions number **27 to 28** are letter

ix. **Section G** – questions number **29 to 30** are paragraph

x. **Section H** – questions number **31 to 34** are long answer

xi. There is no overall choice given in the question paper. However, an internal choice has been provided in few questions.

xii. Use of calculator is NOT allowed.

Section A

Question 1.

He felt certain that his wings would never support him; so he bent his head and ran away back to the little hole under the ledge where he slept at night. Even when each of his brothers and his little sister, whose wings were far shorter than his own, ran to the brink, flapped their wings, and flew away, he

failed to muster up courage to take that plunge which appeared to him so desperate. His father and mother had come around calling to him shrilly, upbraiding him, threatening to let him starve on his ledge unless he flew away. But for the life of him he could not move.(Two Stories about Flying — His First Flight)

(1)

State any one inference about the parents of the baby seagull from the given statement:

'His father and mother had come around calling to him shrilly, upbraiding him, threatening to let him starve on his ledge unless he flew away.'

[1 Marks]

(2) Where did the little seagull sleep at night?

[1 Marks]

(3)

Which factors contributed to the young seagull’s reluctance to

fly despite the encouragement and threats from his parents ?

Elaborate in about 40 words, with reference to the extract.

[2 Marks]

(4)

Which phrase or word would correctly substitute ‘muster up’ in

the given sentence from the extract ?

He failed to ‘muster up’ courage to take that plunge which

appeared to him so desperate.

(A) review

(B) resolve

(C) distribute

(D) gather

[1 Marks]

Question 2.

Tricki was tottering along in his little tweed coat.... He struggled on, drooping in his harness. I thought it wouldn’t be long before I heard from Mrs. Pumphrey. The expected call came within a few days. Mrs. Pumphrey was distraught. Tricki would eat nothing. Refused even his favourite dishes; and besides, he had bouts of vomiting. He spent all his time lying on a rug, panting. Didn’t want to go for walks, didn’t want to do anything. I had made my plans in advance. The only way was to get Tricki out of the house for a period. I suggested that he be hospitalized for about a fortnight to be kept under observation. The poor lady almost swooned. She was sure he would pine and die if he did not see her every day. But I took a firm line. Tricki was very ill and this was the only way to save him.(A Triumph of Surgery)

(1)

Why had the author made his plans in advance ?

(A) Mrs. Pumphrey was worried that Tricki would pine and die without her.

(B) The author was aware of the severity of Tricki’s medical condition.

(C) The author knew about Mrs. Pumphrey’s financial condition.

(D) The author had planned his own vacation.

[1 Marks]

(2) The author firmly proposed the need to remove Tricki from the house for a specified period. Elaborate the reason for doing so in about 40 words.

[2 Marks]

(3)

Fill in the blank with the correct word from the brackets.

The word ‘swooned’ in the following sentence indicates almost

_____*(tripped/fainted).*

[1 Marks]

(4) Fill in the blank: The word ‘swooned’ in the sentence 'The poor lady almost swooned.' means almost _____.

[1 Marks]

Question 3.

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. (Fire and Ice)

(1)

The speaker offers evidence to support his preference for one

theory over the other. Mention the evidence.

[1 Marks]

(2)

What is the prediction of the poet about how the world will

come to an end ? Answer in about 40 words.

[2 Marks]

(3)

“Fire” and “Ice” are used in the poem as

(A) similes

(B) metaphors

(C) repetition

(D) oxymorons

[1 Marks]

(4)

Comment on the overall mood of the extract.

[1 Marks]

Question 4.

The leaves strain toward the glass

small twigs stiff with exertion

long-cramped boughs shuffling under the roof

like newly discharged patients

half-dazed, moving

to the clinic doors. (The Trees)

(1)

How does the comparison between the boughs and newly discharged patients contribute to the theme or message of the poem ? Answer in about 40 words.

[2 Marks]

(2)

Complete the sentence with the appropriate option:

The imagery and descriptions in the poem create a mood of _____.

(A) satisfaction and elation

(B) transition and uncertainty

(C) confusion and chaos

(D) pessimism and certainty

[1 Marks]

(3)

Fill in the blank with one word.

The stiff movement of the twigs in the above extract suggests the_____.

[1 Marks]

(4)

Why does the poet describe the bough as ‘shuffling’ ?

[1 Marks]

Section B

Question 5.

(1) Cinnamon is a spice obtained from the inner bark of several tree species from the genus Cinnamomum. Cinnamon is made by cutting the stems of cinnamon trees. The inner bark is then extracted and the woody parts removed. When it dries, it forms strips that curl into rolls, called cinnamon sticks. These sticks can be ground to form cinnamon powder. The spice, consisting of the dried inner bark, is brown in colour and has a delicately fragrant aroma and a warm sweet flavour. The distinct aroma and flavour of cinnamon derive from its essential oil and principal component, cinnamaldehyde, as well as numerous other constituents including eugenol.

(2) There are two main types of cinnamon: Cassia and Ceylon. The two have different nutritional profiles. Ceylon cinnamon comes from Sri Lanka. Some people call it “true cinnamon.” Cassia cinnamon, on the other hand, originates from southern China. Cassia is cheaper than Ceylon cinnamon. Cassia cinnamon has a robust, rich, somewhat bitter flavour while Ceylon is sweeter and lighter in flavor.

(3) Cinnamon was once more valuable than gold. In Egypt it was sought for embalming and religious practices. In medieval Europe it was used for religious rites and as a flavouring agent. Later it was the most profitable spice in the Dutch East India Company trade.

(4) Cinnamon is widely used as an aromatic condiment and flavouring additive in a wide variety of cuisines, sweet and savoury dishes, breakfast cereals, snack foods, bagels, teas, hot chocolate and traditional foods.

(5) Cinnamon is a spice that has been prized for its medicinal properties for thousands of years. In recent years, modern science has started to confirm many of the potential health benefits associated with cinnamon. Cinnamon has antimicrobial and antifungal properties, which is why it’s often found in dental-hygiene products and is sold as cinnamon supplements. It is also a good source of antioxidants, substances that inhibit the effect of free radicals (reactive atoms that can damage cells). Due to its anti-inflammatory nature, cinnamon is currently being researched for its potential to fight Alzheimer’s disease and decrease symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome and colon cancer.

(6) Studies also suggest that cinnamon has anti-diabetic properties, and may offer protection from cancer and cardiovascular disease, among other conditions. However, more evidence is needed to confirm cinnamon’s benefits. In the short term, consuming moderate amounts of cinnamon as a spice or as a supplement seems to be safe for most people. However, cinnamon contains coumarin. This is a natural flavouring, but it also plays a role in creating warfarin, the common blood-thinning drug. Consuming too much coumarin can lead to liver damage and affect coagulation.

(1) Complete the sentence appropriately. The characteristic aroma and flavour of cinnamon originate from its essential oil, primarily composed of _____ .
Paragraph (1)

[1 Marks]

(2)

Based on the reading of the passage, examine, in about 40 words, how cinnamon derived from the trees is made fit to be used as a spice. Paragraph (1)

[2 Marks]

(3)

Mention one point of difference between Ceylon cinnamon and Cassia cinnamon.
Paragraph (2)

[1 Marks]

(4)

Which of the following statements about cinnamon and its health benefits is true ?

(A) Modern science has evidence to prove that cinnamon has many anti-diabetic properties, and it offers complete protection from cancer and cardiovascular disease.

(B) Cinnamon lacks antimicrobial and antifungal properties, making it unsuitable for dental hygiene products.

(C) Antioxidants found in cinnamon have no effect on free radicals in the body.

(D) Cinnamon's anti-inflammatory properties are being researched for its potential benefits in Alzheimer's disease, irritable bowel syndrome and colon cancer. Paragraph (6)

[1 Marks]

(5)

The writer's use of the phrases 'modern science has started to confirm' in paragraph (5) and 'more evidence is needed to confirm' in paragraph (6) suggests that the benefits of cinnamon are :

1. **proven**

2 scientific

3. **Uncertain**

4 controversial

5 harmful

Select the correct option :

(A) 1and 3

(B) 2 and 4

(C) only 3

(D) only 5

[1 Marks]

(6)

Complete the sentence appropriately.

The author says that cinnamon was once more valuable than gold because _____.

Paragraph (3)

[1 Marks]

(7)

Which of the following statements best describes the author's attitude toward cinnamon and its uses ?

A) Finds cinnamon to be a prized condiment which can be used

in almost all food items.

(B) Believes that cinnamon should be used by everyone,

everyday.

(C) Recognizes that cinnamon has many useful properties,

including health benefits.

(D) Believes that cinnamon should only be used as a medicinal

supplement.

[1 Marks]

(8)

What is the tone of the writer in the given lines from paragraph (5) ? Rationalize your response in about 40 words.

"Cinnamon is a spice that has been prized for its medicinal properties for thousands of years."

[2 Marks]

Question 6.

Read the following passage carefully :

(1) When planning vacations, Indians typically prioritize domestic destinations, as shown by Ministry of Tourism data indicating 1.7 billion domestic tourist visits within India compared to 21 million international departures in 2022. Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka stand out as the top states for domestic tourism. Reasons for domestic tourism are many, some travel because it suits their budget while others love to explore the historical, cultural diversity. The government today is focussing on tourist-friendly infrastructure which is making travel more convenient for the domestic traveller.

(2) In terms of outbound tourism, a significant proportion of Indian travellers, totalling 5.9 million, visited the United Arab Emirates in 2022, comprising 28 percent of total outbound tourist travel. Other Gulf states such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Kuwait also rank among the top destinations, with 2.4 million, 880,000, and 830,000 Indian visitors, respectively. Additionally, countries like the United States and the United Kingdom attract a considerable number of Indian tourists because these countries offer a mix of traditional and contemporary experiences along with enjoying unique cuisines and diverse landscapes.

(3) The popularity of Gulf States and the U.S. may be influenced by migration trends. The current issue of the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) World Migration Report highlights significant migration flows from India to the United Arab Emirates, the United States, and Saudi Arabia. For instance, the Emirates hosted approximately 3.6 million Indian migrants as of August 2023. Only via two corridors have more people transferred from one country to another as of 2020 according to the IOM: Mexico to the United States with around 11 million and Syria to Turkey with approximately 4 million. These migration corridors rank among the top ten globally.

(1)

What does the use of the phrase 'prioritise domestic destinations' by the writer, in paragraph (1) imply ?

(A) Indian tourists prefer places in the country itself.

(B) Indian tourists like to stay at home.

(C) Indian tourists mainly travel on low budgets.

(D) Indian tourists love to hitch-hike and trek.

[1 Marks]

(2)

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given

in brackets, based on your understanding of paragraph (2).

The statement that, World Migration Report highlights significant migration flows from India to the United Arab Emirates, the United States, and Saudi Arabia, is a/an_____(fact/opinion) because it is a/an _____(subjective judgement/objective detail).

[1 Marks]

(3)

What is the writer’s view about the tourism industry in the west ? Write any two points.

[1 Marks]

(4)

Draw a comparative analysis of domestic tourists travelling within India with domestic tourists travelling outside India in 2022. Answer in about 40 words.

[2 Marks]

(5)

Complete the sentence appropriately.

The fourth most visited outbound destination for Indians to the Gulf is_____.

[1 Marks]

(6)

Select the option that is true for the Assertion and Reason given below

Assertion : Indians prioritize Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh for domestic tourism.

Reason : These states are full of historical monuments.

(A) Both the Assertion and Reason are true and the Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion.

(B) Both the Assertion and Reason are true but the Reason is not the correct explanation of the Assertion.

(C) The Assertion is true, but the Reason is false.

(D) The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true.

[1 Marks]

(7)

Identify the word in paragraph (3) that indicates the 'preference' of people travelling to the Gulf.

[1 Marks]

(8)

Mention any two reasons for domestic tourism becoming popular.

[1 Marks]

(9)

Complete the following with a suitable reason.

Gulf states rank as popular destinations for Indians _____.

[1 Marks]

Section C

Question 7.

Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the brackets for the given portion of a letter:

I believe that with your support and _____ (cooperate), we can find a mutually agreeable solution that meets the expectations of all stakeholders involved.

[1 Marks]

Question 8.

Read the given sentence from an electric cooker's instruction manual. Identify the error and supply the correction in the sentence.

For avoid damaging the appliance, do not immerse the electric cooker in water or any other liquid.

Use the given format for your response.

[1 Marks]

Error	*Correction*

Question 9.

Amit and Pallavi had a conversation about the inauguration of Pallavi's event. Report Amit's question.

Did you manage to get any sponsors for the inauguration event scheduled for the next month ?

[1 Marks]

Question 10.

Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the

line of a notice placed on the notice board of a company.

Please be informed that there will be a staff meeting in the

conference room on Friday, 7th June, at 10:00 a.m. It is _____

for all to attend. (mandatory/obligatory/indispensable)

[1 Marks]

Question 11.

Identify the error and supply correction for the given sentence

from a preface of a book.

Writing this book have been a journey of exploration and

discovery.

Use the given format for your response

[1 Marks]

Error	*Correction*

Question 12.

Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the

correction for the opening line, from an analytical paragraph.

The advent of social media has revolutionized communication by

connected people across the globe in unprecedented ways.

[1 Marks]

Option No.	*Error*	*Correction*
(A)	has	have
(B)	communication	communicating
(C)	connected	connecting
(D)	in	for

Question 13.

Report the dialogue between a salesman and his customer, by

completing the sentence.

Salesman : I have a wide range of sportswear.

Customer : Please show me something in cotton fabric, which is

suitable for summers.

The salesman stated _____. The customer requested the

salesman to show something in cotton fabric which would be

suitable for summers.

[1 Marks]

Question 14.

Identify the error and supply the correction for the following

instruction put up for safe use of elevators.

Please refrain by standing near the door as it could lead to an

accident.

Use the given format for your response.

[1 Marks]

Error	*Correction*

Section D

Question 15.

Read the dialogue between Bharti and her mother, Geeta, regarding Geeta's birthday plans. Bharti : Do you want to go to a hill station on your birthday ? Geeta : No, I want to stay at home and call my friends over. Select the correct option that reports the above dialogue. Bharti asked Geeta if she wanted to go to a hill station on her birthday. Geeta replied in the negative and said that _____.

[1 Marks]

(A) she wants to stay home by calling her friends to celebrate.

(B) she wanted to stay at home and call her friends over.

(C) I wanted to stay home and call my friends to celebrate.

(D) she wanted to stay home and call her friends for celebrating.

Question 16.

Complete the given entry in a personal diary, by filling the blank with the correct option. Today was a rollercoaster of emotions. It started off with a sense of excitement and anticipation as I _____ on a new project at work.

[1 Marks]

(A) have embarked

(B) embarking

(C) embarked

(D) embark

Question 17.

Complete the line from a ‘Save the Environment’ song, by filling the blank with the correct option.
Pollution, pollution, its time to take a stand, for the health of our planet, we've got to lend a hand,
Reduce, reuse, recycle, that’s the key, _____our world for you and me.

[1 Marks]

(A) to preserve

(B) for preserved

(C) for preserve

(D) to preserved

Question 18.

Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete an announcement on a flight. In thirty minutes, our flight attendants meal _____service.

[1 Marks]

(A) can begin

(B) will begin

(C) will began

(D) should begin

Section E

Question 19.

The transition from the apartheid system in South Africa to a new

era of equality reflects broader historical trends in the struggle for

human rights and social justice. Elaborate.

(Nelson Mandela — Long Walk to Freedom)

[3 Marks]

Question 20.

How does “The Ball Poem” by John Berryman explore the theme of loss and its profound impact on an individual’s emotional state and perception of the world ?(The Ball Poem)

[3 Marks]

Question 21.

How does the description of the baker’s lifestyle in the past evoke a sense of nostalgia ? (Glimpses of India — A Baker from Goa)

[3 Marks]

Question 22.

What role does each of Belinda’s pets play in the narrative ? Select any two of her pets. (The Tale of Custard the Dragon)

[3 Marks]

Question 23.

Valli found joy and fascination in the simple act of watching the bus pass through her village. What does this reveal about her perspective on life and her surroundings ? (Madam Rides the Bus)

[3 Marks]

Question 24.

How did Ausable get rid of Max ? (The Midnight Visitor)

[3 Marks]

Question 25.

Why does Mme Loisel hastily depart from the ball when her husband places a modest wrap on her shoulders ? (The Necklace)

[3 Marks]

Question 26.

"In time you will be more learned than anyone else in the village. Then no one will ever be able to laugh at you." What effect did her teacher's words have on Bholi ? Elaborate. (Bholi)

[3 Marks]

Section F

Question 27.

As Sakshi/Saksham Bedi of 864, Solar Apartments, Lajpat Street, Dipak Nagar, you feel that the lack of proper street lighting in several areas of your neighbourhood is a threat to safety. Residents, especially those who work late shifts or return home after dark, feel vulnerable due to poorly lit streets. Write a letter to the District Magistrate of your city area, in about 120 words, stating the problem and requesting him to take necessary action for installation of streetlights in those areas.

[5 Marks]

Question 28.

You are Dharti Pradhan/Balal Goyal, the head girl/boy of Pinnacle School, Ustahpuri. You live in a culturally rich city with many historical monuments. You have observed that visitors have etched graffiti on these monuments and littered the area around. You are extremely disturbed at this irresponsible behaviour of the visitors. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, in about 120 words, suggesting measures to stop such vandalism and -creating awareness about the importance of these monuments.

[5 Marks]

Section G

Question 29.

Natural food, typically refers to food that has not been processed or preserved in any significant way before it is consumed, while ultra-processed food refers to food items that have been altered from their natural state through various methods. Given below is a table that differentiates between natural and processed foods.

Study the description given and write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words, drawing a comparison between the two :

[5 Marks]

Natural Food	Processed Food
• High fibre	• High sugar
• Healthy nutrients	• Unhealthy nutrients
• Healthy fats	• Unhealthy fats
• Low sodium	• High sodium
• Regulates blood sugar, blood pressure and provides healthy nutrients	• Tasty, ready to eat and addictive

Question 30.

Social Media has a lasting impact on our thought process and influences our thinking in both positive and negative ways. With the help of the given cues and using your own ideas, write an analytical paragraph on “The Impact of Social Media on Teenagers” in about 120 words.

[5 Marks]

POSITIVE :
- connects peers
- creative expression
- access information
- community building

NEGATIVE :
- impacts self-esteem
- cyber bullying
- privacy intrusion
- distraction and addiction

Section H

Question 31.

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

[6 Marks]

Question 32. Explore the contrasting images of the tiger in ‘A Tiger in the Zoo’ and the tiger in ‘How to Tell Wild Animals’.

[6 Marks]

Question 33.

Anil’s acceptance and forgiveness of the thief demonstrates empathy

and generosity. Elaborate. (The Thief's Story)

[6 Marks]

Question 34.

Trace the transformation of Richard Ebright from a young man with

potential to a respected and accomplished scientist. (The Making of a Scientist)

[6 Marks]