CBSE EXAMINATION PAPER-2026

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 **7 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 18** are grammar short

vi. **Section D** – questions number **19 to 26** are short answer

vii. **Section E** – questions number **27 to 28** are paragraph

viii. **Section F** – questions number **29 to 30** are letter

ix. **Section G** – questions number **31 to 34** are long answer

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

xi. Use of calculator is NOT allowed.

Section A

Question 1.

Read the following extracts and answer the questions:

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.” So, in order not to shake the writer’s faith in God, the postmaster came up with an idea: answer the letter. (A Letter to God)

(1)

Justify the following statement:

What faith! I wish I had the faith of the man who wrote this letter.

[1 Marks]

(2)

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 Marks]

(3) Examine the portrayal of the postmaster in the given extract.

[2 Marks]

(4)

Why did the postmaster initially laugh on seeing the letter?

(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.

[1 Marks]

Question 2.

OMEGA: Yes, sir. (She reads with great seriousness.)

Mistress Mary, quite contrary. How does your garden grow? With cockle shells and silver bells And pretty maids all in a row.

OOP: Ha, ha, ha. Imagine that. Pretty maids growing in a garden.

THINK-TANK: (alarmed) Stop! This is no time for levity. Don’t you realise the seriousness of this discovery? The Earthlings have discovered how to combine agriculture and mining. They can actually grow crops of rare metals such as silver. And cockle shells. They can grow high explosives, too. Noodle, contact our invasion fleet.

NOODLE: They are ready to go down and take over Earth, sir.

(The Book that Saved the Earth)

(1) What can we infer from the given statement, 'This is no time for levity'?

[1 Marks]

(2) Think-Tank thinks that Earthlings have reached a high level of civilisation. Why does he think so?

[2 Marks]

(3)

Complete the sentence appropriately:

The piece of information that Noodle provides to Think-Tank is _____.

[1 Marks]

(4)

What is the tone of Omega while reading the rhyme?

1. happy 2. optimistic 3. serious 4. pessimistic 5. sarcastic

Select the correct option:

(A) Only 1

(B) 4 and 5

(C) Only 3

(D) 1 and 2

[1 Marks]

Question 3.

But he's locked in a concrete cell,

His strength behind bars,

Stalking the length of his cage,

Ignoring visitors.

(A Tiger in the Zoo)

(1)

Complete the sentence suitably :

The tiger ignores the visitors because _____.

[1 Marks]

(2) The above lines juxtapose the tiger's natural instincts with its caged existence. Justify.

[2 Marks]

(3)

What mood is created by the poet in the above lines?

(A) sympathetic and thoughtful

(B) angry and violent

(C) cheerful and happy

(D) exciting and fun

[1 Marks]

(4)

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

The length of his cage highlights the _____ (vast space/limited space/free space) in which the tiger is confined.

[1 Marks]

Question 4.

The fog comes

on little cat feet.

It sits looking

over harbour and city

on silent haunches

and then moves on.

(Fog)

(1) Examine the strategic use of imagery in the above lines.

[1 Marks]

(2) How does the poet portray the relationship between nature and the urban environment?

[2 Marks]

(3)

On the basis of the extract, select the correct option. The image of a cat moving "on little cat feet" evokes:

(A) softness

(B) roughness

(C) wilderness

(D) hardness

[1 Marks]

(4)

Fill in the blank with the appropriate option from the brackets :

In the given extract, the tone of the poet is _____ (playful and mysterious/cold and rough/pessimistic and aggressive).

[1 Marks]

Section B

Question 5.

Read the following passage carefully :

(1) In the contemporary digital era, personal information has become both a resource and a vulnerability. One of the most alarming practices exploiting this sensitivity is doxing, the deliberate act of publicly revealing private or sensitive information about an individual without their consent. It typically blurs the boundaries between online and offline privacy by disclosing personal details such as phone numbers, home addresses, workplace details or financial records on public platforms, making the digital and physical worlds collide.

(2) In the complex landscape of digital communication, doxing emerges as a controversial phenomenon which is often weaponized to frighten, harass, or harm the targeted individual. This leads to anxiety, stress, fear or paranoia as their sense of personal safety and control over their life is severely compromised. A determined doxer might scrape information from various social networking profiles, domain name records or exploit security lapses like weak passwords. Once gathered, this information is shared on public forums, social media, or ‘dox sites’, expanding the victim’s exposure to harassment, stalking, or even physical threats.

(3) This darker side of doxing reveals its true dangers. What makes it particularly treacherous is that once the information is released online, it is almost impossible to erase, making the harm sometimes lifelong. Legally, it occupies a grey area. In some jurisdictions it may violate privacy, cyberstalking or harassment laws, but global differences and the Internet’s borderless nature complicate enforcement. Ethically, doxing is a clear violation of personal autonomy. It disproportionately harms marginalized groups, who often face accelerated real-world risks from such exposures.

(4) Proponents of doxing sometimes claim it promotes justice by exposing individuals who might otherwise escape accountability. For instance, in some cases of online scams or criminal behaviour, Internet users have identified and revealed the real identities of offenders. Moreover, when individuals misuse their anonymity to harm others, exposing them may serve justice and discourage similar behaviour in future.

(5) Defending against doxing demands proactive, preventive and corrective measures like locking down social media privacy settings, using pseudonyms, enabling two-factor authentication, and minimizing shared personal data. However, individual efforts are often insufficient against determined attackers, though certain systematic solutions such as stricter data protection regulations, robust platform moderation and criminalizing doxing explicitly may play a vital role to curb its spread. In addition to this, public awareness campaigns on digital safety are equally important to educate users about risks. Victims should have access to legal aid, counselling and helplines for immediate support. A united effort may ensure better protection against this growing online threat.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(1)

In the phrase ‘personal information has become both a resource and a vulnerability’, the word ‘vulnerability’ refers to : Paragraph (1)

(A) a person’s information being monitored.

(B) the potential to misuse or compromise a person’s data.

(C) the sharing of information supports career contacts.

(D) all personal information is freely available for sanctioning of loans.

[1 Marks]

(2)

Complete the following with the correct option from the two given below :

Doxing results in the collision between digital and physical worlds because _____.

(A) it discloses a person’s personal information on an online platform

(B) it has led to many boxing bouts between individuals

Paragraph (1)

[1 Marks]

(3) Support the writer’s view that doxing may have a psychological impact on the targeted individual. Paragraph (2)

[2 Marks]

(4) Mention any two preventive steps that individuals can take to safeguard their online identity and reduce the risk of being doxed. Paragraph (5)

[2 Marks]

(5)

State whether the statement is True or False :

The strength of a password is not connected to the privacy of their information.

Paragraph (2)

[1 Marks]

(6)

Complete the following suitably :

Doxing is ethically wrong because _____. Paragraph (3)

[1 Marks]

(7)

The negative and dangerous aspect of doxing is : Paragraph (3)

(A) It is easy to delete the information once posted online.

(B) It is impossible to erase the information once released online.

(C) It is easily deleted and edited by the targeted individual.

(D) It is not possible for a doxer to leak information online.

[1 Marks]

(8) Cite one example to support the claim that doxing can promote justice with reference to Paragraph (4).

[1 Marks]

Question 6.

Read the following passage carefully :

(1) Fascination of glassware has captivated people all over the world for its blending utility, artistry and cultural significance. The invention of glassblowing, a technique that involves inflating molten glass

into a bubble with the help of a blowpipe, revolutionized the craft, making glassware more accessible, affordable and versatile. This allowed the mass production of glass vessels.

(2) In India, the craze for glassware has made this industry a significant segment of the manufacturing sector which is notably contributing to both — domestic consumption and exports. India's glass industry comprises a diverse range of products such as container glass, flat glass, and fibreglass. As of 2024, the Indian glass industry was valued at approximately ₹ 40,338 crore. The growth is fuelled by increasing sustainability and the rising demand for decorative items. The flat glass segment, essential for the construction and automotive sectors, contributes around 55% of the total industry revenue. Due to rising demand for energy-efficient buildings, toughened glass is extensively employed. It is also used in automotive windows, doors, facades, and shower screens. Actually, it is a type of processed flat glass, made specifically to be stronger and safer than ordinary flat glass, also called tempered glass. In packaging, container glass is used especially for beverages and pharmaceuticals, which makes up around 25% of the market.

(3) Firozabad in Uttar Pradesh is the heart of the Indian glass industry and is often referred to as the "City of Glass". Firozabad specializes in decorative glassware, chandeliers, bangles and domestic glass products. More than 400 glassware manufacturing units provide employment to over 1,50,000 workers. Artisans of this place have made it a leading contributor to India's glassware export, preserving tradition while supporting the local economy.

(4) The Indian handmade glassware products including artistic and decorative items continue to thrive in the domestic market and in exports. The blend of traditional craftsmanship and modern technology has made the Indian glass industry distinctive in comparison to global leaders like China and the USA.

(5) However, the industry faces many challenges like dependence on imported raw material, energy-intensive manufacturing processes and environmental regulations, but it still holds a vital position in the national economy. In current times, it is focusing on sustainability, as manufacturers are adopting recycled glass or cullet in production in order to reduce energy consumption and carbon emission, as they require lower melting temperatures. Economically, it decreases the cost of raw material and supports circular economy models, making the industry both profitable and environmentally responsible. Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(1)

Select the option that is true for the Assertion and Reason given below. Paragraph (1)

Assertion : The invention of glassblowing has expanded the glass industry all over the world. Reason : Glassblowing allowed craftsmen to produce complex glass objects faster and in large quantities.

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

(B) Both the Assertion and the 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]

(2) Support with evidence from the passage that India's glass industry has a 'diverse range'. Paragraph (2)

[2 Marks]

(3)

Complete the sentence appropriately :

India's glass industry is unique as compared to global leaders like China and the USA because _____. Paragraph (4)

[1 Marks]

(4) How does using recycled glass benefit the glassware industry environmentally ? Paragraph (5)

[1 Marks]

(5)

Complete the following with a suitable reason.

The Indian glass industry is facing many challenges because _____. Paragraph (5)

[1 Marks]

(6) In paragraph (2), identify the word that indicates people's fascination for glassware.

[1 Marks]

(7)

Read the given prompt and select the correct option in the brackets to fill in the blank.

The percentage of container glass used in pharmaceuticals and packaging is _____. (23%, 25%, 28%) Paragraph (2)

[1 Marks]

(8) Why is Firozabad referred to as the "City of Glass" ? Paragraph (3)

[1 Marks]

(9) What does the number of workers in the glassware industry emphasize about the employability of Firozabad ? Paragraph (3)

[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 report: The auto driver did not sustain injuries, though the passenger who was _____ (sit) in the auto was injured.

[1 Marks]

Question 8.

Read the given sentence from a story. Identify the error and supply the correction in the sentence:

The fisherman requested the guards to let him go to meet the king, but they demands half of the profit from his reward.

[1 Marks]

Error	*Correction*

Question 9.

Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option given in the brackets:

_____ (All/Many/Each) girl in the class must have her/their own book.

[1 Marks]

Question 10.

Report the dialogue between a mother and her son by completing the sentence:

Mother: What have you bought from the store?

Son: A soft toy, mother.

Mother: How much did you pay for it?

Son: All the money father gave me yesterday.

The mother asked her son what he had bought from the store. He replied that he had bought a soft toy. Then his mother enquired how much he had paid for that. Upon this he said that _____.

[1 Marks]

Question 11.

Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the line given below:

Mohini attend every concert in the city because she loves classical music.

[1 Marks]

Option No.	*Error*	*Correction*
(A)	attend	attends
(B)	in	to
(C)	because	but
(D)	loves	have love

Question 12.

Select the correct option to complete the reporting of the dialogue given below:

My sister said to me, “I have washed my new dress.”

(A) My sister told me that she had washed her new dress.

(B) My sister asked me that she was washing her new dress.

(C) My sister told me that she has being washed her new dress.

(D) My sister replied me that she have been washed her new dress.

[1 Marks]

Question 13.

Complete the given sentence with the correct form of verb:

It was a challenge to meet the expectations of the committee _____ the given time period.

(A) along

(B) within

(C) between

(D) into

[1 Marks]

Question 14.

Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option given in the brackets:

Heena has worked hard the last six months. She surely _____ (must/would/may) pass this year.

[1 Marks]

Question 15.

Identify the error and supply the correction for the following note in an air purifier’s instruction manual:

If the humidity level in the room is very high, condensation may developed on the air quality sensor.

Use the given format for your response.

[1 Marks]

Error	*Correction*

Question 16.

Mona and Tina plan a visit to the National Museum. Report the question asked by Mona to Tina:

Which is the shortest route to reach the museum?

Mona asked Tina _____.

[1 Marks]

Question 17.

Replace the underlined word used in the sentence with the best option given below:

If Hemant take the earlier train, he would not have been late for the meeting.

(A) had taken

(B) had been taking

(C) have taken

(D) have been taking

[1 Marks]

Question 18.

Identify the error and supply the correction for the following sentence:

A bird in the hand are worth two in the bush.

Use the given format for your response.

[1 Marks]

Error	*Correction*

Section D

Question 19.

Why does Mandela mention that he was prevented from fulfilling his obligations as a son, a brother, a father, and a husband? (Nelson Mandela – Long Walk to Freedom)

[3 Marks]

Question 20.

How does the line ‘people will take balls, balls will be lost always’ justify that material losses are necessary for emotional growth and to understand the harsh realities of life? (The Ball Poem)

[3 Marks]

Question 21.

Why did Kisa Gotami, despite her desperate efforts to find a solution for her grief, ultimately become weary and hopeless? (The Sermon at Benares)

[3 Marks]

Question 22.

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

[3 Marks]

Question 23. The religious man’s perspective in ‘For Anne Gregory’ reinforces the concept of divine love. Illustrate.

[3 Marks]

Question 24.

Considering the emotional attachment of Mrs. Pumphrey with Tricki, state the impact of the word ‘convalescing’ on her. (A Triumph of Surgery)

[3 Marks]

Question 25.

Ausable displayed a remarkable presence of mind combined with a good sense of humour to handle Max. Justify. (The Midnight Visitor)

[3 Marks]

Question 26.

What makes Bholi believe that the place where she was taken was better than her home ? (Bholi)

[3 Marks]

Section E

Question 27.

Read the given details about sleep patterns and their effects.

- restores energy
- enhances immunity
- promotes emotional well-being
- benefits concentration and productivity
- oversleep leads to fatigue, weight gain and irritability

Analyse the details and write an analytical paragraph on the importance of sleep in maintaining physical health, mental well-being, and academic performance.

[5 Marks]

Question 28.

Read the given details:

Kharif and Rabi crops play a pivotal role in agriculture in India. Analyze the data given below and write an analytical paragraph by drawing a comparison between the two.

[5 Marks]

Aspect	Kharif crop	Rabi crop
Sowing season	June to July	October to November
Harvesting season	September to October	March to April
Major crops	Rice, Maize, Cotton, Groundnut, Soybean	Wheat, Barley, Soybean, Mustard, Peas, Gram
Rainfall required	High	Low to moderate
Regions dominated	East and South India	Northwest and Central India
Irrigation dependency	Less, as it is monsoon-based	High, as it requires irrigation
Temperature required	Warm and humid	Cool and dry

Section F

Question 29. You are Vaishali/Vishal, a student of Class X of PQS Public School, Lancer Road, Coldtown. You travel by the school bus every day. The seating capacity of the bus is 35 students but there is overcrowding and many students remain standing through most of the journey. Write a letter to the Principal, drawing attention to this inconvenience, the dangers, and requesting for a resolution to the situation.

[5 Marks]

Question 30. You are Vaidehi/Vishal, a gym trainer. You want to volunteer an hour every weekend to provide free yoga classes to the residents of your colony in the community park. Write a letter to the President of the RWA, Purv Colony, Vrikshbagh, telling him about your plan and its advantages and requesting him to grant you permission to do so.

[5 Marks]

Section G

Question 31.

How does the method of the seagull's mother to teach her child to be independent contrast with Amanda's mother's constant nagging? Examine how this affects the emotional responses of the seagull and Amanda. ('Two Stories about Flying' and 'Amanda!')

[6 Marks]

Question 32. Both, Rajvir in 'Tea from Assam' and Valli in 'Madam Rides the Bus' are motivated by a strong desire to experience the world beyond their everyday life. How do their respective journeys

reflect their curiosity, enthusiasm for discovering new things and shape their understanding of the world around them?

[6 Marks]

Question 33.

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)

[6 Marks]

Question 34. Analyze, how the theme of appearance versus reality is developed in 'The Necklace' through Matilda's life choices and their consequences.

[6 Marks]