CBSE · CLASS 12 · ENGLISH CORE

CBSE Class 12 English Core Important Questions 2027

65 question patterns that repeated across past papers · the years show every time each was asked

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Unseen Passage - Factual/Discursive

1. Provide one textual evidence from a stated paragraph to prove/support a claim

Asked 3× · Board 2025, Board 2026, Sample 2025 · 1 marks

Science fiction passage: Provide one textual evidence with reference to paragraph 4 to prove that there is a lack of mainstream platforms.

2. Complete the analogy using ONE word from a given paragraph

Asked 3× · Board 2025, Board 2026, Sample 2025 · 1 marks

Science fiction passage: Complete the analogy with one word from paragraph 4 - possibility : potential : : unique : _____ (mainstream/access/homegrown/niche) - MCQ.

3. 2-mark: what does a quoted phrase from the passage refer to

Asked 2× · Board 2026, Sample 2025 · 2 marks

Science fiction passage: '...science fiction provides a creative lens through which these problems can be examined.' In the given line, what does the phrase 'creative lens' refer to?

Unseen Passage - Case-based/Analytical (note-making or data)

4. Read the accompanying table/pie/bar graph and answer (with VI-candidate alternative)

Asked 4× · Board 2022, Board 2023, Sample 2026 · 1 marks

Job preferences case study: Fill in the blank with reference to the bar graph - The profession preference for which policymakers primarily need to provide encouraging incentives is _____. [For Visually Impaired Candidates: When the researcher uses 'a broad spectrum of opinions', the researcher refers to _____.]

5. Sentence completion: in the introduction the researcher links X to highlight ___

Asked 3× · Board 2025, Board 2026, Sample 2025 · 1 marks

Case study passage on changing nutritional requirements across age groups (dietitians' three-month observational study). Complete suitably - In the introduction, the researcher links changing dietary requirements to highlight _____.

6. MCQ: classify a statement as Primary purpose/Secondary objective/Method/Research outcome

Asked 3× · Board 2025, Board 2026, Sample 2025 · 1 marks

Nutrition case study: What would the following be classified as? 'Nutritional intake was recorded using food diaries.' (Primary purpose/Secondary objective/Method of analysis/Research outcome) - MCQ.

7. 2-mark: give two points to support a methodological choice in the study

Asked 3× · Board 2025, Board 2026, Sample 2025 · 2 marks

Nutrition case study: Give two points to support how the case study explored various age groups. (Paragraphs 2, 3)

8. Classify two given sentences into the stated pair of categories

Asked 3× · Board 2025, Board 2026, Sample 2025 · 1/2 marks

Nutrition case study: Classify the following sentences as 'development' and 'prevent' - Sentence A: Children had higher energy and protein needs per kilogram of body weight, essential for growth. Sentence B: Adolescents need increased calcium so that their bone growth is not impacted.

9. MCQ: the ultimate goal for stakeholders based on the study

Asked 2× · Board 2025, Sample 2025 · 1 marks

Tourism case study: What is the ultimate goal for stakeholders, based on the insights from the study? (tourists desire to revisit / visit historical sites / domestic tourism increase / to promote India as a tourist destination) - MCQ.

10. State True/False (or True/False/Not-Given) for a statement against the passage

Asked 2× · Board 2023, Board 2024 · 1 marks

Youth happiness survey passage: State True or False - 'It is not necessary to provide financial support to the youth as only academic performance plays an upper hand in deciding the stress level.'

Notice / Classified Advertisement

11. Draft a notice announcing a school or club event/activity (~50 words)

Asked 8× · Board 2024, Board 2025, Board 2026, Sample 2025, Sample 2026 · 4 marks

Attempt any one of (a)/(b) in about 50 words. (a) Your school is planning an inter-house handball tournament. Write a notice for the school notice board informing students of the details, including participation criteria, registration process and contact information. You are Shivani/Shivam, President, Sports Club of ABC International School, Newtown. Put your notice in a box.

12. Draft a formal invitation / invitation card for a function (~50 words)

Asked 5× · Board 2024, Board 2025, Board 2026, Sample 2025, Sample 2026 · 4 marks

Attempt any one of (a)/(b) in about 50 words. (a) You are the President of Student Council of XYZ Public School, Hawapur. Your school is organising an Arts and Crafts Exhibition as part of its Annual Day celebrations. On behalf of the Principal, draft a formal invitation card to be sent to parents and guests, mentioning a compelling highlight of the programme.

13. Residents'/society notice on a civic matter or meeting (water, parking, meeting)

Asked 3× · Board 2023, Board 2024, Board 2026 · 4/5 marks

Attempt any one of (a)/(b) in about 50 words. (b) You are Mr. Sunil Joshi, General Secretary of Resident Welfare Association, Laxman Society, Rivernagar. Write a notice calling for a meeting of the residents to discuss the proposal of installing solar panels in your locality. Put your notice in a box.

Formal/Informal Letter (letter to editor, job application, enquiry, order, complaint)

14. Letter of application for a job with bio-data (120-150 words)

Asked 7× · Board 2022, Board 2023, Board 2024, Board 2025, Board 2026, Sample 2025, Sample 2026 · 5 marks

Attempt any one of (a)/(b) in 120-150 words. (b) You are Arati/Ashok from New Colony, Bamapur. You read the given advertisement and wish to apply for the post of Event Manager at Raleigh Planners. Write a job application with your bio-data.

15. Letter to the editor on a civic/social issue (120-150 words)

Asked 6× · Board 2023, Board 2024, Board 2025, Board 2026, Sample 2025, Sample 2026 · 5 marks

Attempt any one of (a)/(b) in 120-150 words. (a) Waste management in your colony is becoming an issue of grave concern. Write a letter to the editor of a local daily discussing the reasons for poor waste management and suggesting ways to resolve it, using the given cues. You are Shireen/Sahil of Prestige Colony, Rahagarh.

16. Formal letter accepting an invitation (~50 words)

Asked 4× · Board 2025, Board 2026, Sample 2025, Sample 2026 · 4 marks

Attempt any one of (a)/(b) in about 50 words. (b) You are Meena/Manoj Tiwari, an experienced student counsellor invited by the Principal of MN Public School, Jawanshahr, to take a workshop on the importance of emotional well-being of teenagers. Draft a reply in not more than 50 words accepting the invitation.

17. Formal letter declining an invitation

Asked 2× · Board 2023, Board 2024 · 4/5 marks

Attempt any one of (a)/(b) in about 50 words. (b) You are a renowned doctor invited as Chief Guest to the Annual Graduation Ceremony of Green School on 24th March 2024. Write a letter to the President of the Alumni Association expressing your inability to attend due to a prior commitment and convey congratulations to the graduating students.

Article / Report Writing

18. Write an article on a topical/social issue (120-150 words)

Asked 6× · Board 2023, Board 2024, Board 2025, Board 2026, Sample 2025, Sample 2026 · 5 marks

Attempt any one of (a)/(b) in 120-150 words. (a) You are Rajni/Raghav, upset about the increase in cyber bullying among school students. Write an article exploring the reasons and suggesting solutions to help students live in a safe space in the digital world, using the given cues.

19. Write a report of a school event/function (120-150 words)

Asked 6× · Board 2022, Board 2023, Board 2025, Board 2026, Sample 2025, Sample 2026 · 5 marks

Attempt any one of (a)/(b) in 120-150 words. (b) Write a comprehensive report of the Inter-House Cuisine Competition on the theme 'Healthy Eating' held in your school, including event details, participation, students' feedback and overall impact. You are Sunidhi/Sudhakar, Student Editor. Organize it as Who-What-When-Where-Why-How.

The Last Lesson

20. Sudden realisation of the preciousness of one's language/learning

Asked 3× · Board 2024, Sample 2025, Sample 2026 · 1/2 marks

Answer any five of six in 40-50 words: What role does the French language play in 'The Last Lesson', in the context of the narrator's feelings towards it?

21. Franz's carefree, reluctant schoolboy nature at the start

Asked 2× · Board 2023, Sample 2025 · 1/2 marks

The Last Lesson extract: Complete suitably - The activities of seeking birds' eggs and sliding on the Saar reveal, first, Franz's youthful carefree nature and second, his preference for _____.

22. Franz's regret and procrastination over neglecting his lessons

Asked 2× · Board 2025, Board 2026 · 2 marks

Answer any five of six in 40-50 words: 'I won't scold you, little Franz; you must feel bad enough.' What was it that Franz must be feeling bad about? (The Last Lesson)

Lost Spring

23. Saheb's bleak world - poverty, hunger and deprivation

Asked 3× · Board 2024, Board 2025 · 1 marks

Lost Spring extract: State one reason for the boy wearing shoes that did not match.

24. Bangle-makers trapped in a vicious circle, resigned to their plight

Asked 2× · Board 2023, Board 2026 · 1/2 marks

Lost Spring extract: Select the textual option that is closest to acceptance of their plight (next to lines of flames of flickering oil lamps / they often end up losing their eyesight / welding pieces of coloured glass / sit boys and girls with their fathers and mothers) - MCQ.

Deep Water

25. Douglas overcoming his fear of water through determination/will

Asked 3× · Board 2025, Board 2026, Sample 2026 · 2/5 marks

Answer any one in 120-150 words: Analyse the portrayal of fear and freedom in 'Deep Water' and 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers'.

The Rattrap

26. The rattrap as a symbol of the world and the dual nature of man

Asked 3× · Board 2022, Sample 2025, Sample 2026 · 1/2 marks

The Rattrap extract: Complete suitably - When the peddler says, '...I will never get out,' his statement stems from his guilt over stealing 'that fellow's' money and his fear that _____.

27. The peddler's theft of the crofter's money and his resulting guilt

Asked 2× · Board 2025, Sample 2026 · 1 marks

The Rattrap extract: Justify that guilt was the primary cause of the peddler's sense of evil foreboding, based on the information in the extract.

Indigo

28. Peasants' victory and the triumph of civil disobedience at Champaran

Asked 2× · Board 2023, Sample 2025 · 2/5 marks

What factor/s were largely instrumental in the victory of the peasants in 'Indigo'?

Poets and Pancakes

29. The make-up department as a model of national integration

Asked 2× · Board 2023, Board 2026 · 1/2 marks

In what manner was the make-up department ahead of AIR and Doordarshan, according to Asokamitran? (Poets and Pancakes)

The Interview

30. Kipling's view of interviews as immoral/intrusive

Asked 2× · Board 2025, Sample 2026 · 2 marks

How does Rudyard Kipling's refusal to be interviewed point towards the intrusive and unwelcome nature of interviews? (The Interview I & II)

31. Umberto Eco's 'interstices' - using the empty spaces/spare time

Asked 3× · Board 2023, Board 2026 · 1/2 marks

What does Umberto Eco refer to as 'interstices' in 'The Interview'?

Going Places

32. Sophie's relationship with her brother Geoff

Asked 2× · Board 2023, Board 2025 · 2 marks

'Christ, Sophie, you're still at school.' What image do you form of Geoff as a brother from the above context? (Going Places)

My Mother at Sixty-Six

33. Mother's pale, ageing, corpse-like face (late winter's moon simile)

Asked 3× · Board 2026, Sample 2026 · 1/2 marks

Why does Kamala Das compare her mother's face to 'late winter's moon'? (My Mother at Sixty-six)

34. Theme of ageing and the fear of losing the mother

Asked 3× · Board 2023, Sample 2026 · 1 marks

My Mother at Sixty-Six extract: Complete the sentence by filling in with a suitable phrase - The primary theme highlighted in the extract is the _____, as the narrator reflects on her mother's frailty and aging.

35. Imagery of youthful movement contrasting the mother's age

Asked 2× · Sample 2025, Sample 2026 · 1/2 marks

My Mother at Sixty-Six extract: How does the phrase 'merry children spilling out of their homes' contribute to the tone of the passage?

36. Why the poet could only 'smile and smile' at parting

Asked 2× · Board 2023, Board 2024 · 1/2 marks

It is said that the 'Face is a mirror of one's emotions.' Why did the poet 'smile and smile'? (My Mother at Sixty-Six)

Keeping Quiet

37. The poet's stance against war and its destruction

Asked 4× · Board 2026, Sample 2025 · 1 marks

Keeping Quiet extract: What does the poet want us to stop?

38. The value of silence, introspection and 'doing nothing'

Asked 4× · Board 2023, Board 2025, Board 2026, Sample 2025 · 1 marks

Keeping Quiet extract: Assertion - The poet advocates the importance of keeping quiet. Reason - He believes that silence can bring out profound changes in our perspective and lifestyle. Choose the correct option (MCQ).

39. Meaning/purpose of counting to twelve and keeping still

Asked 4× · Board 2023, Board 2026 · 1 marks

Read any one extract (a)/(b). Extract from 'Keeping Quiet' ('Now we will count to twelve and we will all keep still ... and not move our arms so much.'). The expression 'we will all keep still' reflects (the poet's willingness to keep quiet / significance of stillness / poet's appeal for collective engagement / the purpose of counting up to twelve) - MCQ.

40. Harmony with nature / not harming the natural world

Asked 2× · Board 2025, Sample 2026 · 1/2 marks

What does the reference to fishermen not harming whales and the man gathering salt looking at his hurt hands signify in the poem? (Keeping Quiet)

41. Applying the poem's message to promote peace today

Asked 2× · Board 2026, Sample 2025 · 1 marks

Keeping Quiet extract: How can the message in the excerpt, about silence and stillness, be applied to promote peace in today's world?

A Thing of Beauty

42. Beauty is a 'joy forever' and never passes into nothingness

Asked 5× · Board 2024, Board 2025 · 1 marks

Read any one extract (A)/(B). Extract from 'A Thing of Beauty' ('A thing of beauty is a joy forever ... A flowery band to bind us to the earth.'). By the phrase 'joy forever' the poet refers to things (that make people extremely happy / a feast to eyes / a constant source of happiness / beautiful but transient) - MCQ.

43. Beauty's lasting impression and its power to help us cope

Asked 3× · Board 2022, Board 2024, Sample 2026 · 2/4/5 marks

Based on what Keats suggests in 'A Thing of Beauty,' how can recognising the lasting value of beauty help someone in the real world cope with challenges or difficulties?

44. Imagery of calm, rest and health (bower, sleep, health)

Asked 3× · Board 2024, Board 2025 · 1 marks

A Thing of Beauty extract: Complete the sentence - 'a sleep full of sweet dreams' implies _____.

45. The 'flowery band' binding us to life despite suffering

Asked 2× · Board 2022, Board 2025 · 1/2 marks

A Thing of Beauty extract: Select one phrase from the extract which implies that man wants to continue his life on this earth despite innumerable problems.

Aunt Jennifer's Tigers

46. Contrast between the free tigers and the oppressed Aunt

Asked 3× · Board 2024, Sample 2026 · 1 marks

Read any one extract (A)/(B). Extract from 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' ('When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie ... Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.'). What does the phrase 'terrified hands' suggest about Aunt's life?

47. The tigers as symbols of fearlessness and freedom

Asked 4× · Board 2023, Board 2024, Sample 2026 · 1/2 marks

Aunt Jennifer's Tigers extract: Complete suitably - The tigers' proud and playful movements reflect _____.

48. Aunt Jennifer as a symbol of oppressed women (the wedding band)

Asked 2× · Board 2022, Sample 2026 · 1/2 marks

Aunt Jennifer's Tigers extract: Fill the blank - The phrase 'still ringed' refers to both the literal _____ (shape of the embroidery panel / wedding band on her finger) and the figurative 'ring' of constraints and ordeals imposed by her marriage.

The Third Level

49. Nostalgia for Galesburg and the old-currency quest for the past

Asked 3× · Board 2023, Board 2026, Sample 2026 · 1/2 marks

Answer any two of three in 40-50 words: Why was Charley in 'The Third Level' keen to buy old currency?

50. Escapism from the modern world through imagination

Asked 3× · Board 2024, Board 2025, Sample 2026 · 1/2 marks

The Third Level extract: Complete with a correct option based on the context - The phrase 'I went back to my stamps' suggests _____ (finding comfort in a familiar hobby / choosing a new hobby / attempting to engage in a new hobby / approaching a familiar hobby with enthusiasm) - MCQ.

51. Interweaving of reality and fantasy / literal and metaphorical journeys

Asked 2× · Board 2024, Sample 2025 · 2/5 marks

Interpret the significance of both literal and metaphorical journeys in the story, 'The Third Level.'

The Tiger King

52. Satire on autocracy and the humorous narrative technique

Asked 3× · Board 2025, Sample 2026 · 1/5 marks

Answer any one in about 120-150 words: Analyse how the narrative technique used in 'The Tiger King' enhances the impact of the story on the reader.

53. The wooden toy tiger and the irony of the king's death

Asked 2× · Board 2026, Sample 2025 · 2 marks

The Maharaja, on the third birthday of the crown prince, gave him a special gift. What was special about the gift? (The Tiger King)

Journey to the End of the Earth

54. The 'Students on Ice' programme and Geoff Green's vision

Asked 2× · Board 2025, Sample 2026 · 2 marks

Answer any two of three in 40-50 words: How can participating in educational programmes like 'Students on Ice', which take students to places like Antarctica, help raise awareness about the impact of geological changes and environmental issues? (Journey to the End of the Earth)

55. An awakening call for environmental responsibility

Asked 2× · Board 2023, Board 2026 · 5 marks

Answer any one in 120-150 words: 'Journey to the end of the Earth' gives an awakening call to man to act with responsibility to save the environment. Substantiate the above statement with textual evidence.

The Enemy

56. Sadao's conflict - duty as a doctor vs patriotism in treating the enemy

Asked 4× · Board 2023, Board 2024, Board 2025, Sample 2026 · 5 marks

Answer any one in about 120-150 words: Justify how Sadao's character arc is more central to the moral dilemma in 'The Enemy' as opposed to Hana's.

On the Face of It

57. Mr Lamb's philosophy - looking beyond the face / perception

Asked 4× · Board 2024, Board 2025, Sample 2026 · 1/2 marks

Read any one extract (A)/(B). Dramatic extract from 'On the Face of It' (Derry and Mr Lamb - 'You think.... Here's a boy ... I'm afraid of me.' / 'No, Not the whole of you. Not of you.'). What does Mr. Lamb mean when he says, 'No. Not the whole of you. Not of you'?

58. Derry's self-image, fear and inner conflict over his scarred face

Asked 4× · Board 2023, Sample 2026 · 1 marks

On the Face of It extract: What might Derry be thinking during the pause after he insists, 'Yes!'? (Why doesn't he understand me? / He's pretending to care like everyone else / Maybe he really sees more than just my face / I should leave. He doesn't get it.) - MCQ.

59. Mr Lamb's warmth and his attempts to put Derry at ease

Asked 3× · Board 2023, Board 2024, Sample 2026 · 1/2 marks

On the Face of It extract: What does this exchange reveal about the emotional distance Derry feels and Mr. Lamb's attempt to bridge it?

60. Acceptance, not pity, for people with disabilities

Asked 2× · Board 2026, Sample 2026 · 2/5 marks

Answer any one in 120-150 words: People with physical impairments deserve acceptance, not sympathy. How does the play 'On The Face Of It' advocate the above philosophy through the characters of Mr. Lamb and Derry?

Memories of Childhood

61. The cutting of Zitkala-Sa's hair as cultural erasure/loss of identity

Asked 4× · Board 2026, Sample 2025 · 1/2 marks

What efforts did Zitkala-Sa make to save her hair from being cut? (Memories of Childhood)

62. The 'wooden puppet' metaphor for Zitkala-Sa's powerlessness

Asked 2× · Sample 2025, Sample 2026 · 1/2 marks

What does Zitkala-Sa's description of being 'tossed about in the air like a wooden puppet' reveal about her feelings of powerlessness and cultural displacement? (The Memories of Childhood: The Cutting of My Long Hair)

63. Education as the way out / empowerment

Asked 3× · Board 2023, Board 2026 · 1 marks

Memories of Childhood extract: What, according to the speaker, is the way out of the situation? (education/aggression/compliance/legislation) - MCQ.

64. The speaker's (Bama's) marginalised character

Asked 2× · Board 2023, Board 2026 · 1 marks

Memories of Childhood extract: List one personality trait that is exhibited by the speaker in the above extract.

65. Caste discrimination and indignities faced by Bama's community

Asked 2× · Board 2023, Board 2026 · 1 marks

Read any one extract (a)/(b). Extract from 'Memories of Childhood' (Bama/Annan - 'Because we are born into this community, we are never given any honour or dignity or respect ... So study with care, learn all you can. ...'). The expression 'these indignities' in the above extract refers to _____.

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