

CBSE
Class X Summative Assessment – II
English
(Language and Literature)
Board Question Paper – 2015 (Set 1) Solution

SECTION A - (Reading)

1.

- (a) Kausani is situated in the Central Himalayas at a height of 6,075 feet.
- (b) The 300-km wide breathtaking view of the Himalayas provided by Kausani is its most striking aspect.
- (c) The most famous peak on view from Kausani is Nanda Devi.
- (d) The natural surroundings of Kausani inspired Sumitranandan Pant to write poems.
- (e) The view of the peaks becomes memorable at when the colour changes to a golden orange.
- (f) We are told that the beauty of the place left Gandhiji spellbound and it inspired him to name it the 'Switzerland of India'. He also extended his stay from two days to fourteen days. Therefore, we can conclude that Gandhiji was greatly charmed by the natural beauty of Kausani.
- (g) There is no traffic in Kausani and the people too are not in a hurry to go anywhere; these two factors make it a calm and quiet place.
- (h) Kausani is known for its majestic beauty and serenity. The cool climate and the natural beauty of the surrounding give the place a divine feel; therefore, it is known as 'God's own backyard'.

2.

- (a) The diners at Anand Bhavan began uttering low moans on seeing the tiger.
- (b) Tigers attack only to feed themselves when they are hungry. Humans on the other hand attack and kill their own kind without any purpose or hunger.
- (c) The children were scared to see the tiger. They were all running helter-skelter, but they were happy at the same time. Their schools were being closed hurriedly and they were given a holiday.
- (d) On seeing the tiger, the headmaster jumped onto the table and heaved himself up into an attic. The tiger liked to lie down and sleep on the cool floor of the headmaster's office.
- (e) (iv) holding tightly in the arms
- (f) (i) pleasure
- (g) (ii) honourable
- (h) (ii) jumped forward

SECTION B- (Writing and Grammar)

3.

Anjana Joseph
F-112
Kailash Colony
Delhi
19th March 2015

The Editor
The Hindustan Times
Kasturba Gandhi Marg
New Delhi

Dear Sir,

Subject: Unauthorised use of loudspeakers in public places

I would like to bring the readers' notice an unfortunate incident which resulted in a quarrel among the members of Kailash colony. The fracas was due to the unauthorised use of loudspeakers which were blaring till 12 p.m. at a wedding party.

Lately, the indiscriminate use of loudspeakers has been causing problems for the residents of Delhi. Every occasion warrants loud music. The deadlines are repeatedly flouted and decibel levels are routinely raised. In a city where the stress levels are already high, problems such as high blood pressure and heart palpitations are added to the list of woes. It is time that we shun these raucous speakers and settle for more peaceful ways of celebrating.

Thanking you,
Yours truly,
Anjana

OR

Floods - Causes and Prevention

Anita Rohatgi

Tragic scenes unfolded when heavy rains wreaked havoc in Jammu and Kashmir causing floods, landslides, house collapses and heavy loss of life and property. There has been a complete breakdown of transport and communication, and the entire state has been plunged into darkness. Human activities such as rapid deforestation have been held responsible for the floods. Situations like this could have been prevented if the embankments and levees were reinforced. Dams should be constructed with a capacity to retain run-off water. These steps can serve as preventive measures for floods in the future.

4.

A huge crowd had gathered near the main notice board. I peered over the heads of the students to read what was written on the bulletin board. It read:

RUNNING RACE ON MONDAY! First prize – Personal Computer

This seemed god-sent. It's about time I had a computer. But I came from a humble family background and our family couldn't afford luxuries such as computers. With no guidance or support, winning this race seemed like a difficult proposition. I was also up against the fastest runner in the school.

I planned everything and was determined to achieve my goals. My ambition fuelled my drive to quell any difficulties I may face. I practised every day starting my day as early as 5 a.m. I maintained a stopwatch and tried to beat my previous records. Eventually, there was a vast improvement in my performance and I could beat all my friends at running. On the day of the race, I put all my energy and concentration into my performance and managed to beat even the fastest runner in the school. Having my own PC was no longer a distant dream now. Ultimately, I won it as I was determined to achieve my goal.

OR

Once upon a time, a kingdom of birds lived in a forest. There came a year when the summer was exceptionally hot and dry. They faced a scarcity of fresh food and water. The King Bird suggested that they migrate to a better place. Among them was a greedy sparrow. She was often chided by the elders for her greed, but she paid no heed to them.

While migrating, she noticed carts with baskets of grains. The sparrow couldn't resist the temptation of seeing so much food. She thought of a plan to have all the grains for herself. Complaining of pain, she suggested to the others that they stop for a while. The birds agreed with her and descended in order to rest their aching wings. The other birds also noticed the cart. Fearing she would lose the grains to the others, the sparrow dissuaded

them by saying that the owner had set a trap to kill the birds. The greedy sparrow then enjoyed the grains all by herself. Unbeknownst to her, the owner had spread a net. She was caught and caged by the owner. The greedy sparrow learnt a lesson the hard way.

5.

(a) – (ii)

(b) – (i)

(c) – (ii)

6.

(a) encourages – encourage

(b) by – on

(c) is – are

(d) we – they

7.

(a) She sat up in a battery driven wheelchair every evening/Every evening, she sat up in a battery driven wheelchair.

(b) She drove her wheelchair to an apple orchard.

(c) She was very happy to see the trees laden with apples.

SECTION – C
(Literature/Textbooks and Long Reading Text)

8.

- (a) The 'I' is the narrator of the story The Hack Driver.
- (b) The narrator was disappointed as his expectations of a sweet, simple country village were not met when he reached New Mullion.
- (c) The word 'expectations' means 'strong beliefs' that something will happen or is likely to happen.

OR

- (a) The speaker in the poem is the poet WB Yeats.
- (b) Honey-coloured ramparts refer to the woman's hair.
- (c) The word 'despair' means to be without hope.

9.

- (a) The Buddha chose Benaras to preach his first sermon because it was the most holy of the dipping places on the River Ganges.
- (b) Valli wanted to go to the stall and have a drink as she did not want to be obligated to the conductor. This shows that she is taught of not taking anything from strangers.
- (c) When the women were returning from the party, they were wrapped in rich furs. However, Matilda did not have one and was afraid that someone would notice it. Therefore, she wanted to hurry home after the ball.
- (d) Bholi was sent off to school as her mother thought that her responsibility could be palmed off to the teachers there. Fortunately, her teacher was a kind lady and asked her to be optimistic about coming to school and learning. This filled Bholi's life with new hope.

10.

In the story 'The Sermon at Benaras', Gautam Buddha preaches about dealing with the loss of a loved one. Death is imminent and integral to the life cycle. It is true that when a loved one dies, the family is shattered and depressed. The memories of the deceased haunt the family members for a long time. However, it is also true that one who has come in this world will die one day. Hence, one should try to come to terms with their grief. Grieving is an individual experience, and hence, there is no timeline for grieving. Some people may move on sooner while some may take a longer time to deal with it. The best way to cope with such a loss is taking help from friends and family members. If they are offering emotional support, one should accept it instead of going into denial. Some people turn to faith and religion to come to terms with grief. Some also join support groups so that they don't feel lonely and can share their sorrows with others who have experienced similar emotions. Counsellors and therapists also help people to work through intense emotions and to overcome obstacles in the grieving process.

OR

The Proposal' or 'The Marriage Proposal' is a one-act play by Anton Chekhov classified under farce. The characters of the play employ a tone of absurdity and show exaggerations in their actions. Lomov guzzles down water, puts his hand over his heart, runs to the door and 'staggers out'. Natalia becomes 'hysterical' after he leaves, falling back into an armchair 'and groans' for some time. Lomov is constantly drinking water and palpitating as he quarrels with Natalya and her father. They display all characteristics of a flawed relationship. A healthy relationship is a one that is full of understanding and communication. When people are in a healthy relationship, they don't quarrel over petty issues. They don't argue over wealth and financial gains. A healthy relationship is full of trust and wisdom. It is not does not involve irrational judgements. It is, in conclusion, devoid of selfishness and malice.

11.

Otto Frank was Anne's father and a kind-hearted spirit. Anne sought great inspiration from her father who encouraged Anne to read books and news. Otto Frank liked amusing people in the Annex and lightened up their mood. He used to tutor the children in the Annex. He is the only resident of the Annex to survive the war. Otto Frank received Anne's diary when he returned to Holland after the war. He remarried and spent the rest of his life promoting Anne's diary. After Anne's death, he worked towards his daughter's wish to have her words published. He got the diary published and gave the world an eye-opening view of a little girl's thoughts in adverse times. It was because of him that the world today knows the story of how the Jews were treated by the Nazis.

OR

Anne calls herself as 'little bundle of contradictions', but the contradictions are not directly discussed in the diary. However, we do read about Anne as a little girl and about the horrible adult situation she is forced into during the war. There is a contradiction between the young and innocent girl, and the beginnings of a young woman discovering her sexuality. Finally, there is a contradiction between the joyful, young and happy Anne and the pensive, moody, deeper Anne. Through the diary, we are acquainted with two sides of her personality. One side deals with her day-to-day problems as a teenager and other is a deep philosophical side which ponders about her existence in a war-torn land. In the first year, Anne speaks about problems related to her struggles with the adults in the 'Secret Annex'. She is curious by nature and tries to make sense out of her existence. In her final entries, Anne grows into a mature person who comes to terms with her situation. She ponders about her role in a changing world and her identity as a Jewish person. These two sides of Anne's personality are often in conflict with each other.

OR

Dr Graham Bell's contribution to Helen's life was immense. He was a private tutor and she was his favourite pupil. Right from her childhood, he was a great source of inspiration for Helen. He himself was a pioneer in empowering the disabled and enabling their integration into society. Dr Bell accompanied Helen to the World Fair where she was given the permission to touch and feel anything she wanted to. It was there that her childhood fantasies manifested themselves. From the pyramids to the Viking ships, from the Indian bazaars to the lagoons of Venice, Helen had a great time exploring with Dr Bell. He went everywhere with her. In his own delightful way, he described the objects of great interest to her. He took her to the electrical building where they examined the telephones, autophones, phonographs and other inventions. He made her understand how it is possible to send a message on wires which mock space and outrun time. Dr Graham Bell's presence greatly benefited Helen. Had it not been for him, she may have never been exposed to these wonders.

OR

Since Harvard did not accept women, Helen focused on getting into Radcliffe College. There were many who opposed Helen's decision to go to college. Some felt that women should not go to college; others thought her disability might become an impediment to her learning. But these words only bolstered Helen's resolve to get into Radcliffe. She was a very smart woman, but she still had to prepare herself to get into college. When she was 16, she went to the Cambridge School for Young Ladies. There she worked very hard. With the help of her teacher Anne Sullivan, Helen managed to study from the books which weren't available in Braille. Miss Sullivan also attended all of Helen's classes and used the manual alphabet to take down the notes. She aided Helen in learning by spelling out the notes. Her hard work eventually paid off when she cleared the entrance exam for Radcliffe. She proved her detractors wrong by receiving honours in German and English. Helen exhibited great passion for Radcliffe College. Through her single-minded dedication, she managed to make her dream come true.