

CBSE ANSWER KEY

CLASS XI – ENGLISH CORE (301)

Session: 2025–26 | Annual Examination
(SET A & SET B – Answer Key)

SECTION A – READING SKILLS

Q1. Unseen Passage – Environment

Q.No	Correct Answer
i	B. They feel the task is too big for one person
ii	To avoid abuse of paper, we should reuse paper by using clean sides of envelopes, avoid paper napkins and plates, and use washable cloth napkins to save trees and raw materials.
iii	The Internet helps spread awareness by connecting like-minded people, sharing environmental stories and issues, pooling solutions, and educating people through social media platforms.
iv	putting an article to a second use / reusing items
v	C. Effective garbage disposal
vi	C. Collect it separately
vii	By digging a large pit in the colony, collecting kitchen waste collectively, involving residents, and converting it into manure through cooperation.

Q2. Case-Based Passage – ChatGPT

Q.No	Correct Answer
i	Fear of misuse in education / reduced originality / academic dishonesty (<i>any one</i>)
ii	No. ChatGPT cannot browse the internet or provide updated factual details of a 2022 landslide, so it cannot be the only source for a news report.
iii	TRUE
iv	D. “Sorry, I don't have access to your data.”
v	maximum / highest
vi	D. It had 59 respondents from the medical field including students
vii	nicely

Q3. NOTE MAKING & SUMMARY-2+2+1+3

Q8. INTEGRATED GRAMMAR

8.1 Verb Forms

1. **had lost**
2. **will have worked**

8.2 Rearrangement

Overfishing has caused a significant decline in fish populations in various regions.

8.3 Do as Directed

1. **Voice:**
An apple was eaten and a glass of milk was drunk by him.
 2. **Remove 'too':**
Shyam is so clever that he cannot be cheated.
 3. **Narration:**
Tariq asked Avni if she had completed her project work given by their Science teacher.
 4. **Degree:**
Deepawali is more loved than any other festival in India.
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SECTION C – LITERATURE VALUE POINTS

Q9. POETRY EXTRACTS

9A. *The Laburnum Top*

i. Poetic device (1 mark)

- Alliteration (*suddenness / startlement*)
-

ii. Bird compared to a lizard (2 marks)

Any two points:

- Quick, smooth and alert movement
 - Sudden appearance and disappearance
 - Sleek body and swift action
-

iii. Effect of goldfinch's arrival (1 mark)

- ✓ The tree becomes very happy and noisy
-

9B. *A Photograph*

i. Theme (1 mark)

- Loss and memory
 - Passage of time
 - Nostalgia mixed with pain
-

ii. 'Laboured ease of loss' (1 mark)

- Sad acceptance
 - Quiet grief
 - Emotional exhaustion
-

iii. Assertion–Reason (1 mark)

- ✓ (a) Both true and correctly related
-

Q10. PROSE EXTRACTS

10A. *The Portrait of a Lady*

i. Author's location (1 mark)

- Studying abroad / University
-

ii. Grandmother's reaction (1 mark)

- ✓ She clasped the author in her arms and said prayers
-

iii. Happiest moments (2 marks)

Any two points:

- Feeding sparrows
 - Saying prayers
 - Spending time in devotion
-

10B. *The Adventure*

i. Speaker & topic (2 marks)

- Speaker: Rajendra Deshpande

- Listener: Professor Gaitonde
 - Topic: Catastrophe theory applied to history
-

ii. Fate of Maratha army (1 mark)

- ✓ They lost the battle
-

iii. Catastrophe theory (2 marks)

Any two points:

- Small events cause major consequences
 - Sudden change alters history
 - Turning points shape outcomes
-

Q11. *The Address*

11A

i. Character of Mrs S (2 marks)

Any two points:

- Kind and generous
 - Trusting nature
 - Concerned about belongings
-

ii. Risk taken by Mrs Dorling (2 marks)

Any two points:

- Carrying valuables during war
 - Risk of theft or suspicion
 - Fear of being caught
-

iii. Sentence with 'antique' (1 mark)

- Grammatically correct sentence
-

iv. Synonym of 'lugging' (1 mark)

- ✓ Carrying

11B

i. Narrator's feelings (1 mark)

- Emotional attachment
 - Nostalgia
 - Longing for the past
-

ii. Reason for waiting (1 mark)

- Wanted to meet Mrs Dorling
 - Wanted to reconnect with memories
-

iii. Longing for connection (1 mark)

- Desire to relive past
 - Emotional bond with possessions
-

iv. Correct option (1 mark)

- ✓ (a) nostalgia
-

Q12. SHORT ANSWERS (40–50 words)

(Any TWO – 3 marks each)

General Marking Split

- Content – 2
 - Expression – 1
-

Indicative Value Points

i. *The Adventure*

- Confusion due to alternate history
 - Absence of historical proof
 - Doubt about reality
-

ii. *The Voice of the Rain*

- Rain describes itself as eternal
 - Part of nature's cycle
 - Purifies and nurtures life
-

iii. *We're Not Afraid to Die*

- Symbol of hope
 - Emotional support
 - Boosted morale during crisis
-

iv. *Childhood*

- Heaven and hell are mental states
 - Not physical places
 - Sign of maturity
-

Q13. CHARACTER SKETCH (3 marks)

Marking Scheme

- Traits – 2
 - Expression – 1
-

i. Aram (*The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse*)

- Innocent and honest
 - Strong moral values
 - Influenced by conscience
-

ii. Andrew Manson (*Birth*)

- Dedicated doctor
 - Compassionate and determined
 - Responsible professional
-

Q14. LONG ANSWER (120–150 words) – 6 marks

Marking Split

- Content – 3
- Organisation – 2
- Language – 1

i. *Silk Road & Discovering Tut*

Value Points:

- Physical hardship
 - Extreme weather
 - Health risks
 - Determination and perseverance
-

ii. Fathers in *Father to Son & We're Not Afraid to Die*

Value Points:

- Emotional distance vs emotional support
 - Conflict vs reassurance
 - Responsibility of fatherhood
-

Q15. LONG ANSWER (120–150 words) – 6 marks

i. *The Tale of Melon City*

Value Points:

- Satire on misgovernance
 - Lack of accountability
 - Blind justice system
 - Relevance to modern society
-

ii. *The Summer... & The Address*

Value Points:

- Moral integrity
- Ownership vs ethics
- Contrast in handling possessions