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CLASS 10 ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE - PRACTICE QUESTIONS

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CLASS 10

English Language and Literature

Chapterwise Important Questions

31 sections | 124 original questions | 2026-27

Read each chapter, attempt the questions, and support explanations with working or textbook evidence.

Choose a chapter or topic

First Flight – Prose	
Chapter 1	A Letter to God
Chapter 2	Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom
Chapter 3	Two Stories about Flying
Chapter 4	From the Diary of Anne Frank
Chapter 5	Glimpses of India
Chapter 6	Mijbil the Otter
Chapter 7	Madam Rides the Bus
Chapter 8	The Sermon at Benares
Chapter 9	The Proposal
First Flight – Poetry	
Poem 1	Dust of Snow
Poem 2	Fire and Ice
Poem 3	A Tiger in the Zoo
Poem 4	How to Tell Wild Animals
Poem 5	The Ball Poem
Poem 6	Amanda!
Poem 7	The Trees
Poem 8	Fog
Poem 9	The Tale of Custard the Dragon
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Footprints without Feet	
Chapter 1	A Triumph of Surgery
Chapter 2	The Thief's Story
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Chapter 4	A Question of Trust
Chapter 5	Footprints without Feet
Chapter 6	The Making of a Scientist
Chapter 7	The Necklace

Chapter 8	Bholi
Chapter 9	The Book That Saved the Earth

Language Skills	
Skill	Reading Skills
Skill	Grammar
Skill	Writing Skills

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CHAPTER 1

A Letter to God

First Flight – Prose

1. Why does Lencho write to God after the hailstorm?
2. How does the postmaster try to preserve Lencho's faith?
3. Explain the irony in Lencho's final judgement of the postal employees.
4. Discuss the difference between faith and trust in human kindness in the story.

CHAPTER 2

Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom

First Flight – Prose

1. How does Mandela connect personal freedom with the freedom of his people?
2. Explain his understanding of courage.
3. Why are both oppressor and oppressed described as deprived of freedom?
4. Discuss how the inauguration represents a collective achievement rather than only an individual's success.

CHAPTER 3

Two Stories about Flying

First Flight – Prose

1. How does hunger help the young seagull overcome fear?
2. Explain the role of the seagull's family in his first flight.
3. Why does the pilot in The Black Aeroplane continue into dangerous weather?
4. Compare the use of suspense in the two flying narratives.

CHAPTER 4

From the Diary of Anne Frank

First Flight – Prose

1. Why does Anne feel a need to write a diary despite having a family and acquaintances?
2. How does the diary form give readers access to Anne's private thoughts?
3. Explain how Anne responds creatively to Mr Keesing's punishments.
4. Discuss what the episode reveals about humour and understanding between a teacher and a pupil.

CHAPTER 5

Glimpses of India

First Flight – Prose

1. What roles does the baker play in Goan social life?
2. How do landscape and cultural details shape the description of Coorg?
3. Compare Rajvir's curiosity about tea with Pranjol's familiarity with it.
4. How do the three pieces connect a place's identity with everyday practices?

CHAPTER 6

Mijbil the Otter

First Flight – Prose

1. How does Mijbil adapt to the narrator's home?
2. Explain how specific incidents reveal the otter's playful nature.

3. What difficulties arise while transporting Mijbil?

4. Discuss how the narrator's observations create affection without making the animal simply human.

CHAPTER 7

Madam Rides the Bus

First Flight – Prose

1. How does Valli plan her journey and manage its cost?

2. What does the bus journey reveal about her wish for independence?

3. Explain how the sight of the dead cow changes the mood of her return journey.

4. Discuss how the narrative combines a child's excitement with an encounter with mortality.

CHAPTER 8

The Sermon at Benares

First Flight – Prose

1. Why is Kisa Gotami unable to obtain the mustard seeds she needs?

2. How does the Buddha's task lead her towards understanding?

3. Explain the difference between acknowledging grief and denying the reality of loss.

4. Discuss how the narrative moves from a personal tragedy to a universal truth.

CHAPTER 9

The Proposal

First Flight – Prose

1. How do Lomov and Natalya's arguments undermine the purpose of the visit?
2. Explain how Chubukov contributes to the play's comedy.
3. What do the disputes suggest about pride and property?
4. Discuss how exaggerated behaviour and interruptions create farce.

POEM 1

Dust of Snow

First Flight – Poetry

1. How does a small natural incident change the speaker's mood?
2. Explain the significance of the crow and hemlock tree.
3. How does the short form reinforce the suddenness of the change?
4. Discuss whether the poem requires an extraordinary event to suggest renewal.

POEM 2

Fire and Ice

First Flight – Poetry

1. What human emotions are associated with fire and ice?
2. Explain how the poem makes an enormous subject feel concise and personal.
3. How does the speaker's tone affect the treatment of destruction?
4. Discuss why opposing emotions may lead to similarly harmful outcomes.

POEM 3

A Tiger in the Zoo

First Flight – Poetry

1. Compare the tiger's movements in captivity with its imagined movement in the wild.
2. Explain how the poem presents the contrast between power and confinement.
3. What effect do the night-time details create?
4. Discuss how the poem encourages reflection on human control over wildlife.

POEM 4

How to Tell Wild Animals

First Flight – Poetry

1. How does exaggeration create humour in the descriptions?
2. Explain why the poem's method of identifying animals is deliberately impractical.
3. Choose an example of wordplay and discuss its effect.
4. How does the lively rhythm contribute to the poem's tone?

POEM 5

The Ball Poem

First Flight – Poetry

1. Why does the lost ball matter beyond its monetary value?
2. Explain the speaker's decision not to simply replace the ball.
3. How does the poem connect loss with growing responsibility?
4. Discuss how a small personal event becomes a lesson about life.

POEM 6

Amanda!

First Flight – Poetry

1. How do Amanda's imagined worlds contrast with the spoken instructions?
2. Explain how the poem presents the child's wish for freedom.
3. What is the effect of alternating voices or perspectives?
4. Discuss whether the poem asks readers to understand Amanda rather than merely label her disobedient.

POEM 7

The Trees

First Flight – Poetry

1. Explain the contrast between enclosed trees and the forest outside.
2. How does movement give the trees a sense of agency?
3. Discuss the possible symbolic significance of the trees' departure.
4. Explain how night-time imagery contributes to the poem's atmosphere.

POEM 8

Fog

First Flight – Poetry

1. How does the cat metaphor help readers visualise fog?
2. Explain the effect of the poem's brevity.
3. What do stillness and movement contribute to the image?

4. Discuss how the poem turns an ordinary weather event into a memorable observation.

POEM 9

The Tale of Custard the Dragon

First Flight – Poetry

1. How does Custard's behaviour differ from the claims of the other characters?
2. Explain how repetition and playful names contribute to humour.
3. What does the encounter with the pirate reveal about courage?
4. Discuss the irony in the characters' behaviour after the danger has passed.

POEM 10

For Anne Gregory

First Flight – Poetry

1. How does the poem distinguish outward appearance from inner identity?
2. Explain the role of the exchange between speakers.
3. Why is changing hair colour not a complete answer to the problem raised?
4. Discuss the relationship between ideal love and ordinary human attraction.

CHAPTER 1

A Triumph of Surgery

Footprints without Feet

1. How does overindulgence contribute to Tricki's condition?
2. Explain why the vet's practical treatment succeeds.

3. Discuss the contrast between Mrs Pumphrey's interpretation and the actual treatment.

4. What does the story suggest about responsible affection for animals?

CHAPTER 2

The Thief's Story

Footprints without Feet

1. Why does Hari Singh find Anil both useful and unusual?

2. How does the opportunity to learn complicate the thief's decision?

3. Explain the significance of Hari's return.

4. Discuss why quiet trust may affect a person differently from punishment.

CHAPTER 3

The Midnight Visitor

Footprints without Feet

1. How does Ausable challenge Fowler's expectations of a secret agent?

2. Explain how the invented balcony helps Ausable control the situation.

3. What role does the knock at the door play in the suspense?

4. Discuss how intelligence and composure prove more effective than physical glamour.

CHAPTER 4

A Question of Trust

Footprints without Feet

1. Why does Horace Danby consider himself different from an ordinary thief?
2. How does the woman exploit his assumptions?
3. Explain the irony of the title.
4. Discuss how confidence can become a weakness when it is not supported by careful judgement.

CHAPTER 5

Footprints without Feet

Footprints without Feet

1. How do Griffin's actions show the misuse of scientific ability?
2. Explain how the invisible footprints establish mystery.
3. Discuss the difference between possessing knowledge and acting responsibly.
4. How does Griffin's behaviour affect his relationship with the people around him?

CHAPTER 6

The Making of a Scientist

Footprints without Feet

1. How do Ebright's collections develop into scientific investigation?
2. Explain the role of his mother and mentors.
3. What distinguishes an experiment from a display of collected material?
4. Discuss how curiosity, perseverance and evidence work together in the chapter.

CHAPTER 7

The Necklace

Footprints without Feet

1. How does dissatisfaction lead Matilda towards the central mistake?
2. Explain why appearances matter so strongly to her.
3. Discuss the irony of the final revelation.
4. How might honesty at an earlier stage have changed the course of the story?

CHAPTER 8

Bholi

Footprints without Feet

1. How do neglect and ridicule influence Bholi's early confidence?
2. Explain the importance of the teacher's encouragement.
3. Why is Bholi's refusal at the wedding a significant transformation?
4. Discuss how education changes her ability to make a choice.

CHAPTER 9

The Book That Saved the Earth

Footprints without Feet

1. How does Think-Tank misinterpret familiar objects and language?
2. Explain how nursery rhymes become a source of comic fear.
3. Compare Noodle's behaviour with Think-Tank's self-image.
4. Discuss how the play satirises authority based on vanity rather than understanding.

LANGUAGE SKILL

Reading Skills

Language Skills

1. Read this original report: Of 200 students surveyed, 90 preferred printed books, 70 preferred digital books and 40 had no clear preference. Students could select only one response. The survey covered one school and was voluntary. Calculate the percentage preferring printed books.

2. What conclusion can reasonably be drawn from the report, and what wider conclusion cannot?

3. Explain how voluntary participation may affect interpretation of the results.

4. Write a two-sentence summary that preserves the numbers and the survey limitation.

LANGUAGE SKILL

Grammar

Language Skills

1. Complete: 'Neither the teacher nor the students ___ ready.' Choose a suitable verb and explain the agreement.

2. Report: The librarian said, 'Please return this book by Friday.'

3. Correct the tense error in 'By the time we arrived, the film already started'.

4. Rewrite using a suitable modal: 'It is necessary for every visitor to carry an identity card.'

LANGUAGE SKILL

Writing Skills

Language Skills

1. Write a formal complaint about irregular waste collection, stating the problem, its effect and a practical request.

2. Write a letter to the editor proposing measures to reduce noise near a hospital.

3. Write an analytical paragraph from these transport preferences: bus 45 percent, walk 30 percent, bicycle 15 percent, car 10 percent.

4. Write an analytical paragraph comparing two library branches: A has 500 members and 1,500 monthly loans; B has 300 members and 1,200 monthly loans. Compare both totals and loans per member.

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