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CLASS 11

English Core

Chapterwise Important Questions

18 sections | 72 original questions | 2026-27

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

Choose a chapter or topic

Hornbill – Prose	
Chapter 1	The Portrait of a Lady
Hornbill – Poetry	
Poem 1	A Photograph
Hornbill – Prose	
Chapter 2	We're Not Afraid to Die... if We Can All Be Together
Chapter 3	Discovering Tut: The Saga Continues
Hornbill – Poetry	
Poem 2	The Laburnum Top
Poem 3	The Voice of the Rain
Poem 4	Childhood
Hornbill – Prose	
Chapter 5	The Adventure
Chapter 6	Silk Road
Hornbill – Poetry	
Poem 5	Father to Son
Snapshots	
Chapter 1	The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse
Chapter 2	The Address
Chapter 3	Mother's Day
Chapter 4	Birth
Chapter 5	The Tale of Melon City
Language Skills	
Skill	Reading and Note-making
Skill	Grammar
Skill	Writing Skills

CHAPTER 1

The Portrait of a Lady

Hornbill – Prose

1. How does the grandmother's relationship with the narrator change after they move to the city?
2. Explain the significance of her daily routines.
3. How does the sparrow episode influence the ending?
4. Discuss how affection is conveyed through observation rather than direct praise alone.

POEM 1

A Photograph

Hornbill – Poetry

1. How does the photograph connect three different moments in time?
2. Explain the contrast between the enduring sea and human life.
3. What does the mother's response to the photograph reveal?
4. Discuss how the poem expresses grief through silence and understatement.

CHAPTER 2

We're Not Afraid to Die... if We Can All Be Together

Hornbill – Prose

1. How does the narrator's preparation differ from the challenges encountered during the storm?
2. Explain the contribution of the crew to survival.
3. How do the children's responses affect the adults?

4. Discuss the relationship between practical action and emotional resilience.

CHAPTER 3

Discovering Tut: The Saga Continues

Hornbill – Prose

1. Why do modern investigators examine Tut's remains using scientific methods?
2. Explain the tension between preserving an ancient body and investigating it.
3. How does the chapter contrast old excavation practices with later technology?
4. Discuss why scientific findings may raise new questions instead of settling every historical uncertainty.

POEM 2

The Laburnum Top

Hornbill – Poetry

1. How does the goldfinch transform the atmosphere around the tree?
2. Explain the contrast between silence and sudden activity.
3. What is the effect of the machine-like imagery?
4. Discuss the interdependence suggested by the bird and the tree.

POEM 3

The Voice of the Rain

Hornbill – Poetry

1. Explain how the rain describes its own cycle.
2. How does personification shape the dialogue?

3. Discuss the comparison between rain and a song.

4. Explain how the poem links apparent disappearance with continuing renewal.

POEM 4

Childhood

Hornbill – Poetry

1. What different signs of growing up does the speaker consider?

2. Explain the significance of discovering adult hypocrisy.

3. How does independent thought change the speaker's sense of self?

4. Discuss why the poem ends with an image rather than a simple date or event.

CHAPTER 5

The Adventure

Hornbill – Prose

1. How does the story use an alternative historical outcome to unsettle familiar reality?

2. Explain the role of Professor Gaitonde's experience in connecting history and speculation.

3. Discuss the relation between evidence and competing explanations in the narrative.

4. How does the story encourage readers to question whether history was inevitable?

CHAPTER 6

Silk Road

Hornbill – Prose

1. How do altitude and landscape affect the narrator's journey?
2. Explain the importance of encounters with local people.
3. How do practical details prevent the travel account from becoming purely romantic?
4. Discuss how anticipation and actual experience differ during the pilgrimage journey.

POEM 5

Father to Son

Hornbill – Poetry

1. What does the father find difficult to understand about his son?
2. Explain how the shared home contrasts with emotional distance.
3. How does the poem communicate a desire for reconciliation?
4. Discuss why mutual vulnerability matters more than assigning blame.

CHAPTER 1

The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse

Snapshots

1. How do the boys justify keeping the horse despite their family's reputation?
2. Explain the contrast between desire and honesty.
3. What role does John Byro's response play in the boys' decision?
4. Discuss how the story treats moral growth without a dramatic punishment.

CHAPTER 2

The Address

Snapshots

1. Why does the narrator return to the address after the war?
2. How do familiar objects become emotionally unfamiliar?
3. Explain the significance of the narrator's final decision.
4. Discuss how possessions can preserve memory while failing to restore a lost life.

CHAPTER 3

Mother's Day

Snapshots

1. Why is Mrs Pearson's contribution taken for granted by her family?
2. How does the exchange of personalities expose unequal expectations?
3. Explain the comic effect of the family's reactions.
4. Discuss how the play argues for respect without treating family affection as unimportant.

CHAPTER 4

Birth

Snapshots

1. How does Andrew's personal uncertainty contrast with the urgency of the medical situation?
2. Explain how determination and observation guide his actions.

3. What gives the final outcome significance beyond professional success?

4. Discuss how the story combines scientific effort with emotional commitment.

CHAPTER 5

The Tale of Melon City

Snapshots

1. How does the search for blame reveal weaknesses in authority?

2. Explain how the public response contributes to the satire.

3. What is the effect of choosing a melon as ruler?

4. Discuss whether orderly appearances necessarily indicate sensible government.

LANGUAGE SKILL

Reading and Note-making

Language Skills

1. Read this original passage: A town restored an unused pond. Rainwater began collecting again, but litter blocked one inlet. Volunteers first removed the litter and then asked nearby shops to change disposal practices. The pond improved when physical repair was combined with everyday cooperation. Suggest a suitable title.

2. Make notes on the passage using headings, subheadings and a key to abbreviations.

3. Write a concise summary that distinguishes the initial repair from the continuing solution.

4. Identify the main inference about community projects and support it with evidence from the passage.

LANGUAGE SKILL

Grammar

Language Skills

1. Complete with suitable forms: 'She ___ (work) here since June and ___ (finish) two projects already.'

2. Rearrange into a meaningful sentence: 'careful planning / successful teamwork / requires / and clear communication'.

3. Correct the error in 'The information collected from the surveys are useful'.

4. Combine two ideas using an appropriate clause: 'The roads were flooded. The volunteers continued delivering supplies.'

LANGUAGE SKILL

Writing Skills

Language Skills

1. Draft a classified advertisement for a lost school bag, including identifying details and contact information.

2. Design the wording of a poster encouraging water conservation.

3. Write a speech on responsible use of social media, with a clear argument and relevant examples.

4. Write a debate for or against the motion that homework should be reduced. Address a likely counterargument.

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