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CLASS 12 ENGLISH CORE - PRACTICE QUESTIONS

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CLASS 12

English Core

Chapterwise Important Questions

22 sections | 88 original questions | 2026-27

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

Choose a chapter or topic

Flamingo – Prose	
Chapter 1	The Last Lesson
Chapter 2	Lost Spring
Chapter 3	Deep Water
Chapter 4	The Rattrap
Chapter 5	Indigo
Chapter 6	Poets and Pancakes
Chapter 7	The Interview
Chapter 8	Going Places
Flamingo – Poetry	
Poem 1	My Mother at Sixty-Six
Poem 2	Keeping Quiet
Poem 3	A Thing of Beauty
Poem 4	A Roadside Stand
Poem 5	Aunt Jennifer's Tigers
Vistas	
Chapter 1	The Third Level
Chapter 2	The Tiger King
Chapter 3	Journey to the End of the Earth
Chapter 4	The Enemy
Chapter 5	On the Face of It
Chapter 6	Memories of Childhood
Language Skills	
Skill	Reading Skills
Skill	Notice and Invitation Writing
Skill	Letters, Articles and Reports

CHAPTER 1

The Last Lesson

Flamingo – Prose

1. How does Franz's attitude towards school change during the final lesson?
2. Explain the importance of language to the community's identity.
3. How does M Hamel's behaviour combine regret and dignity?
4. Discuss how a familiar classroom becomes a symbol of political loss.

CHAPTER 2

Lost Spring

Flamingo – Prose

1. Compare Saheb's circumstances with Mukesh's aspirations.
2. Explain how poverty and inherited occupations restrict choice.
3. How do ordinary objects reveal the gap between childhood hopes and reality?
4. Discuss why individual effort alone may not overcome structural barriers in the chapter.

CHAPTER 3

Deep Water

Flamingo – Prose

1. How does the childhood experience shape Douglas's later fear?
2. Explain the stages through which he works to overcome it.
3. What distinguishes a temporary reassurance from a sustained change in confidence?

4. Discuss how the chapter connects fear with the enjoyment of life.

CHAPTER 4

The Rattrap

Flamingo – Prose

1. Why does the peddler compare the world to a rattrap?
2. How does Edla respond differently from the other people he meets?
3. Explain the importance of the peddler's final gift and letter.
4. Discuss the relationship between being trusted and acting with dignity.

CHAPTER 5

Indigo

Flamingo – Prose

1. How does Gandhi first establish the facts of the sharecroppers' situation?
2. Why does the episode matter beyond the repayment amount?
3. Explain the importance of local participation and self-reliance.
4. Discuss how civil disobedience is connected with overcoming fear in the chapter.

CHAPTER 6

Poets and Pancakes

Flamingo – Prose

1. How do descriptions of studio departments create humour?
2. Explain how workplace hierarchy affects the narrator's observations.
3. What does the encounter with the visiting poet reveal about communication?

4. Discuss the difference between an institution's public image and its daily working life.

CHAPTER 7

The Interview

Flamingo – Prose

1. Why do some writers distrust the interview as a form?
2. Explain how the second part tests or complicates the views in the first.
3. What does the conversation reveal about Umberto Eco's approach to time and work?
4. Discuss the relation between public visibility and an author's creative identity.

CHAPTER 8

Going Places

Flamingo – Prose

1. How do Sophie's dreams differ from Jansie's outlook?
2. Explain the role of Geoff in Sophie's imagined world.
3. How does the story distinguish aspiration from self-deception?
4. Discuss how social circumstances influence the form Sophie's fantasies take.

POEM 1

My Mother at Sixty-Six

Flamingo – Poetry

1. How does the speaker respond to the sight of her ageing mother?
2. Explain the contrast between the car's interior and the world outside.

3. What is the emotional effect of the final smile?

4. Discuss how the poem conveys a childhood fear within an adult experience.

POEM 2

Keeping Quiet

Flamingo – Poetry

1. How does the poet distinguish a pause for reflection from total inactivity?

2. Explain the significance of the shared counting activity.

3. How do examples of work and conflict widen the poem's concern?

4. Discuss the connection between self-understanding and peace.

POEM 3

A Thing of Beauty

Flamingo – Poetry

1. Explain how beauty offers relief from suffering in the poem.

2. How does the poet move from natural objects to stories and human imagination?

3. Choose an image of shelter or refreshment and analyse its effect.

4. Discuss why beauty is presented as continuing nourishment rather than momentary distraction.

POEM 4

A Roadside Stand

Flamingo – Poetry

1. What do the stand's owners hope to gain from passing traffic?

2. Explain the contrast between urban visitors and rural sellers.

3. How does the poem question promises of development?

4. Discuss the speaker's mixed feelings of sympathy, frustration and helplessness.

POEM 5

Aunt Jennifer's Tigers

Flamingo – Poetry

1. How do the tigers contrast with Aunt Jennifer's own condition?

2. Explain the symbolism of the wedding band.

3. How does the poem connect artistic creation with a wish for freedom?

4. Discuss the significance of the tigers continuing beyond the maker's life.

CHAPTER 1

The Third Level

Vistas

1. How does Charley's experience connect the past with a desire to escape the present?

2. Explain why the setting makes the imagined refuge attractive.

3. What role does Sam's letter play in sustaining uncertainty?

4. Discuss how the story leaves room for both psychological and fantastic readings.

CHAPTER 2

The Tiger King

Vistas

1. How does the prophecy shape the ruler's decisions?
2. Explain how attempts to avoid fate create the story's irony.
3. What do the responses of officials suggest about power?
4. Discuss how the ending satirises both royal arrogance and misplaced certainty.

CHAPTER 3

Journey to the End of the Earth

Vistas

1. Why is Antarctica useful for understanding Earth's environmental history?
2. How does the journey change the narrator's sense of scale and time?
3. Explain the relationship between a local ecological change and a global system.
4. Discuss the educational value of direct experience in the chapter.

CHAPTER 4

The Enemy

Vistas

1. Why does Sadao's decision create a conflict between professional duty and national loyalty?
2. Explain Hana's contribution to the ethical problem.
3. How do the servants' reactions reveal social pressure?
4. Discuss whether the story presents compassion as an easy choice.

CHAPTER 5

On the Face of It

Vistas

1. How does Derry's expectation of rejection affect his behaviour?
2. Explain how Mr Lamb challenges his assumptions.
3. What role do the garden and open gate play in the drama?
4. Discuss how the play distinguishes physical appearance from the limits people impose on themselves.

CHAPTER 6

Memories of Childhood

Vistas

1. Compare the pressures faced by Zitkala-Sa and Bama.
2. Explain how a seemingly ordinary incident reveals a system of discrimination.
3. How do the narrators move from confusion to resistance?
4. Discuss the role of dignity and education in their responses.

LANGUAGE SKILL

Reading Skills

Language Skills

1. Read this original passage: A city added protected cycle lanes on three routes. Counts showed more cyclists on those routes, while a survey found that some users had previously travelled by bus and some by car. No data were collected on streets without new lanes. What conclusion is directly supported?

2. Explain why increased cycle counts do not alone measure the reduction in car journeys.

3. Identify an additional dataset needed to judge wider transport impact.

4. Write a balanced summary that retains both the finding and its limitation.

LANGUAGE SKILL

Notice and Invitation Writing

Language Skills

1. Draft a notice inviting entries for an inter-house science exhibition, including eligibility, date and submission process.

2. Write a formal invitation for a school annual function.

3. Write a polite formal reply declining an invitation because of a prior commitment.

4. Revise this incomplete notice using suitable invented venue and contact details: 'Science Club meeting: Friday, 10 July, 1 p.m. All members should attend.' Explain why your additions make the notice more useful.

LANGUAGE SKILL

Letters, Articles and Reports

Language Skills

1. Write a job application for a library assistant post, including a suitable resume or biodata.

2. Write a letter to the editor proposing practical improvements to public transport access.

3. Write an article arguing for community participation in environmental conservation.

4. Write a factual report on a school relief drive, distinguishing verified figures from estimates.

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