Class X English — Practice Paper 1

Practice paper in the CBSE section pattern · Time: 1 hour · Maximum marks: 30

General instructions

1. This is an original practice paper, shorter than a board paper. It is not an official CBSE sample paper; official sample papers are published at cbseacademic.nic.in.
2. All questions are compulsory. Marks are shown in brackets.
3. Section A has 1-mark questions, Section B 2-mark, Section C 3-mark, Section D a 5-mark question and Section E a case-based question.
4. Write neatly, show your working and check your answers in the last five minutes.

Section A (6 marks)

Read the passage and answer. 1 mark each.

PASSAGE: When the old reading room in Sector 9 closed, four Class X students asked the residents' welfare association for one empty room. They collected 300 donated books in a month, sorted them by age group and opened the room for two hours every evening. At first only younger children came, mostly for comics. By the second term, parents were borrowing novels, and grandparents met there to read newspapers aloud to each other. The students kept a register, fixed torn covers with tape and wrote a short review of one book every week on a chart near the door. 'We thought we were starting a library,' one of them said. 'We ended up starting a habit.'

1. Who asked for the empty room? [1]

2. How many donated books did they collect in a month? [1]

3. Who came first to the reading room? [1]

4. Find a word in the passage that means 'given freely as a gift'. [1]

5. What did the students write every week? [1]

6. What does the last line suggest? [1]
   (a) the library failed
   (b) people began reading regularly
   (c) the books were sold
   (d) the room closed

Section B (6 marks)

Grammar. 2 marks each.

7. Report the dialogue: [2]
   Riya said to me, 'I will return your book tomorrow.'

8. Identify and correct the error in each line: [2]
   (i) Neither of the boys have finished.
   (ii) She is senior than me.

9. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb: [2]
   The bus (leave) ____ before we (reach) ____ the stop.

Section C (9 marks)

Read the poem and answer. 3 marks each.

POEM (original):

'The kite forgot it had a string, / and called the sky its own; / it danced with every gust of wind / and thought it flew alone. / But when the evening storm rolled in / and other kites were torn, / the string that it had laughed about / still brought it safely home.'

10. What did the kite believe about itself at first? Quote one line. [3]

11. What does the string stand for in the poem? Explain. [3]

12. Identify one poetic device in the poem and explain its effect. [3]

Section D (5 marks)

Writing. 5 marks.

13. Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper (120–150 words) about plastic waste in a public park near your home, suggesting two solutions. [5]

Section E (4 marks)

Analytical paragraph. 4 marks.

14. A class survey asked 40 students how they mostly read for fun: printed books 18, phone or tablet 14, newspapers 4, do not read for fun 4. Write a paragraph of about 100 words analysing the data. [4]

Answer key and marking guide

Award marks for each correct step shown in brackets. Accept any correct method or equivalent wording; value points are a guide, not a script.

Section A

Q	Answer	Marking
1	Four Class X students	1 mark for the correct answer.
2	300	1 mark for the correct answer.
3	Younger children, mostly for comics	1 mark for the correct answer.
4	donated	1 mark for the correct answer.
5	A short review of one book	1 mark for the correct answer.
6	(b)	1 mark for the correct answer.

Section B

Q	Answer	Marking
7	Riya told me that she would return my book the next day.	Reporting verb and pronouns (1); tense and time word (1).
8	(i) has finished (ii) senior to me	1 mark each.
9	had left; reached	Past perfect (1); simple past (1).

Section C

Q	Answer	Marking
10	That it was free and flew alone; 'and thought it flew alone'	Idea (2); suitable quotation (1).
11	Support or guidance (family, teachers, rules) that seems limiting but keeps us safe	Meaning (1); explanation linked to the storm (2).
12	Personification — the kite 'forgot', 'thought', 'laughed'	Device named (1); example (1); effect (1).

Section D

Q	Answer	Marking
13	Value points: describe the problem, its effects on animals and visitors, suggestions (bins, fines, clean-up drives, cloth-bag stalls), request for action	Format (1); content (2); organisation and expression (2).

Section E

Q	Answer	Marking
14	Value points: printed books most popular (45%), screens close behind (35%), small numbers for newspapers and non-readers (10% each), a conclusion	Data used accurately (2); comparison and conclusion (1); expression (1).

Marking guide in brief

- Step marks: a correct method with a slip in arithmetic keeps most of the marks.
- Units, labels and a final statement are part of the answer.
- In long answers, marks go to the points made, not the length.
- Time check: about 1 minute per mark leaves time to revise.