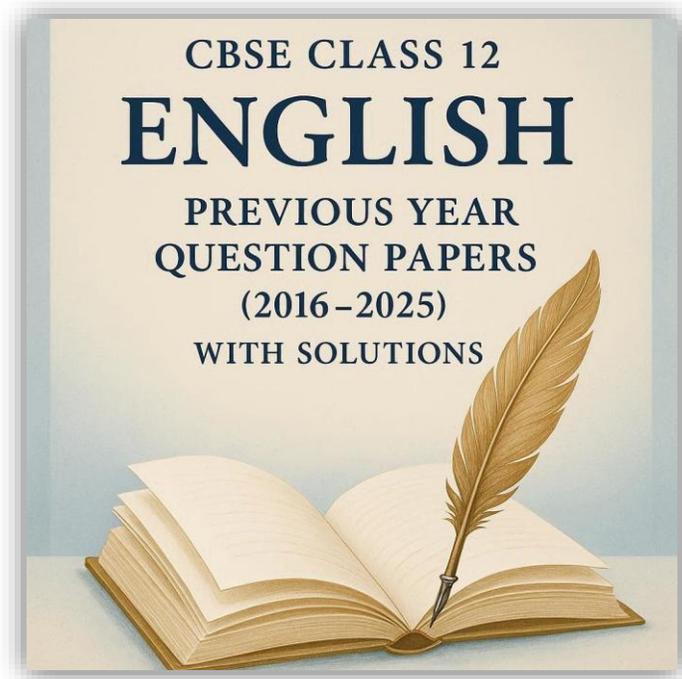


CBSE Class 12 English Previous Year Question Papers (2016–2025) with Solutions



Complete Practice Guide for Board Exam 2026 | Based on Latest CBSE
Pattern & Competency-Based Questions

Published By: **SWAN India Publication**

 Dedication

***“Words are not just a means to communicate —
they are the bridge between thought and understanding.”
— SWAN India Publication***

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★ Important Tips & Strategies for Board Exam 2026

Preparing for the **CBSE Class 12 English Board Examination** requires a balanced approach — understanding, expression, and presentation.

The following tips and strategies will help you make the most of your preparation and perform confidently in the exam.

1. Know the Syllabus and Exam Pattern Thoroughly

Before you begin, familiarize yourself with the **CBSE English Core syllabus** and **question paper design**. Understand the weightage of each section — Reading, Writing, and Literature — so you can plan your study schedule accordingly.

2. Practice Reading Comprehension Daily

The Reading Section tests your ability to understand, interpret, and infer meaning. Read newspapers, articles, and sample passages regularly. While practicing, time yourself — you should be able to read and answer efficiently within the time limit.

3. Perfect Your Writing Skills

Practice all writing formats — *letters, notices, reports, articles,* and *posters*. Focus on **structure, clarity, and tone**.

Remember, presentation matters — proper margins, neat handwriting, and organized paragraphs create a strong impression on examiners.

4. Strengthen Your Literature Section

Read each prose and poem carefully. Understand the **themes, character sketches, and moral insights**. Practice short and long answer questions — include relevant quotes and interpretive lines for higher marks.

5. Learn the Art of Presentation

In English, how you write is as important as what you write. Use connectors and transition words (however, therefore, meanwhile, etc.) to make your answers flow smoothly. Keep your handwriting legible and answers crisp.

6. Revise Regularly and Avoid Cramming

Revise every section multiple times instead of memorizing at the last moment. Revisiting old papers from this book will help you identify **patterns and recurring questions**.

7. Practice Time Management

During practice sessions, complete each paper within the official 3-hour limit.

Allocate time wisely:

- Reading: 45 minutes
- Writing: 45 minutes
- Literature: 90 minutes

Regular practice under timed conditions improves speed and accuracy.

8. Focus on Grammar and Vocabulary

Even minor grammatical mistakes can cost marks. Revise tenses, subject-verb agreement, and reported speech daily. Build your vocabulary by learning 5–10 new words each day and using them in writing practice.

9. Stay Calm and Positive

Don't let stress affect your preparation. Take short breaks, rest well, and maintain a positive mindset. Confidence grows with consistent effort and practice.

10. Believe in Yourself and Your Effort

Every solved paper brings you closer to perfection. Trust your preparation, follow your plan, and write with clarity and confidence in the exam.

“Excellence is not achieved overnight — it is built every day through practice, patience, and persistence.”

English

Time: 3 Hours / Maximum Marks: 80

⚡ **General Instructions:**

1. All questions are compulsory.
 2. Answers should be written in the space provided.
 3. Use precise language and coherent expression.
 4. Read all questions carefully before answering.
-

Section A – Reading (20 Marks)

Q1. *Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below:*

The habit of reading is one of the greatest resources of mankind. Books are real friends that stand by us in joy and sorrow. They introduce us to great minds, inspire noble thoughts, and broaden our outlook on life. Reading not only entertains but also educates, enabling us to think critically and independently.

In today's digital age, however, this noble habit is declining. The instant entertainment of screens often replaces the calm joy of a good book. Unlike social media feeds that vanish

quickly, a good book leaves a lasting impression. Encouraging reading among youth is crucial for developing empathy, creativity, and emotional intelligence.

(a) What are the benefits of reading books?

Answer: Books inspire noble thoughts, develop empathy, enhance creativity, and broaden our perspective on life.

(b) Why is reading said to be a declining habit today?

Answer: Because digital entertainment and social media have reduced the time and interest in reading books.

(c) What does reading enable us to do?

Answer: It enables us to think critically, reason logically, and develop independent judgment.

(d) Mention one difference between books and social media feeds.

Answer: Books leave a long-lasting impression, while social media content is temporary.

(e) Suggest one way to promote reading habits among students.

Answer: Organizing library sessions, book clubs, or reading challenges in schools.

Q2. *Read the following passage and answer the questions:*

A recent study revealed that students who maintain a balanced lifestyle — including proper sleep, regular physical activity, and mindful screen use — perform better academically and

emotionally. Overexposure to screens can lead to eye strain, anxiety, and reduced attention span.

Simple strategies like digital detox, scheduled study breaks, and outdoor play help improve focus and well-being. The study concludes that balance is key: technology should be a tool for learning, not a distraction.

(a) According to the study, which factors improve academic performance?

Answer: Proper sleep, physical activity, and mindful screen use.

(b) Mention two problems caused by overexposure to screens.

Answer: Eye strain, anxiety, and reduced attention span.

(c) What is a digital detox?

Answer: A planned break from digital devices to refresh the mind and reduce stress.

(d) Suggest one way to ensure balanced use of technology.

Answer: Fix daily screen-time limits and take regular offline breaks.

(e) Give a suitable title for the passage.

Answer: *“Balance Before Bytes”* or *“Mindful Tech Use”*.

Section B – Writing & Grammar (20 Marks)

Q3. Notice Writing

You are the head boy/girl of Sunrise Public School. Draft a

notice for the school notice board informing students about a *Science Exhibition* to be held in the school auditorium.

Answer:

**SUNRISE PUBLIC SCHOOL, DELHI
NOTICE**

Date: 10 February 2025

Subject: Science Exhibition

All students are informed that our school is organizing a *Science Exhibition* on **20th February 2025** in the school auditorium from **10:00 AM to 2:00 PM**. Students from Classes IX–XII can participate by preparing working models or posters based on scientific themes.

Interested students may register their names with the Science Club in Room No. 15 before **15th February 2025**.

(Sd/-)

Head Boy / Head Girl

Q4. Formal Letter (5 Marks)

You are Riya Sharma, a resident of Bhopal. Write a letter to the editor of *The Daily Herald* expressing concern about the rise of cyberbullying among students and suggesting measures to prevent it.

Answer:

Riya Sharma
Sector 5, Arera Colony

Bhopal – 462016
10 February 2025

The Editor
The Daily Herald
Bhopal

Subject: Concern over the rise of cyberbullying among students

Sir/Madam,

Through your esteemed newspaper, I wish to express my concern about the increasing cases of **cyberbullying** among students. Many youngsters misuse social media to spread false information and harass peers anonymously. This not only affects mental health but also hampers concentration and self-esteem.

I suggest that schools conduct **digital ethics workshops**, include **cyber safety in curriculum**, and parents monitor online activity regularly. Strict action against offenders and awareness campaigns can help curb this menace.

I request you to highlight this issue to promote safe digital behavior among students.

Yours sincerely,
Riya Sharma

Q5. Grammar (Integrated)

(a) Fill in the blanks with suitable forms of verbs:

(i) If I ____ (be) you, I would avoid social media during exams.

Answer: were

(ii) The results ____ (announce) tomorrow.

Answer: will be announced

(b) Rearrange the words to form a meaningful sentence:

“books / best / are / friends / our”

Answer: *Books are our best friends.*

(c) Fill in the blank with suitable preposition:

He is afraid ___ spiders.

Answer: of

Section C – Literature (40 Marks)

Q6. Flamingo – The Last Lesson:

Why was Franz shocked to learn that it was the last French lesson?

Answer: Because he had never taken his studies seriously and now regretted losing the opportunity to learn his mother tongue after German occupation.

Q7. Lost Spring:

What message does Anees Jung convey through the story “Lost Spring”?

Answer: The story highlights the exploitation of child labor and the loss of innocence due to poverty. It appeals for education and empowerment of children.

Q8. *Deep Water:*

How did Douglas overcome his fear of water?

Answer: Through systematic training, gradual exposure, and determination. His instructor helped him master each stage of swimming, replacing fear with confidence.

Q9. *The Rattrap:*

How did Edla's kindness transform the peddler?

Answer: Edla's compassion and trust made the peddler realize his wrongdoing. He returned the stolen money and decided to live honestly, proving the power of kindness.

Q10. *The Enemy (Vistas):*

What conflict did Dr. Sadao face while treating the enemy soldier?

Answer: His duty as a doctor clashed with his loyalty as a citizen. Despite being a Japanese, he chose humanity over patriotism and saved the wounded soldier's life.

Q11. *On the Face of It (Vistas):*

How do Derry and Mr. Lamb inspire each other?

Answer: Derry learns self-acceptance and positivity from Mr. Lamb, while Mr. Lamb rediscovers hope and companionship through Derry's visit.

Q12. Poem – Keeping Quiet:

What does the poet Pablo Neruda mean by “keeping quiet”?

Answer: He suggests silence and self-reflection for peace and understanding among humans — not total inactivity, but a pause to reconsider our actions.

Q13. Poem – A Thing of Beauty:

Why does the poet say a thing of beauty is a joy forever?

Answer: Because true beauty never fades; it provides eternal joy, inspiration, and comfort even in times of despair.

About SWAN India Publication

SWAN India Publication is a progressive educational publishing house committed to creating **quality learning resources** for students across India.

We believe that true education is not just about passing exams — it is about building understanding, curiosity, and confidence that last a lifetime.

Since its inception, SWAN India Publication has aimed to simplify complex concepts and make learning accessible, meaningful, and result-oriented.

Every book we publish reflects our philosophy — **clarity, accuracy, and commitment to excellence.**

Our team of experienced educators and academic professionals works tirelessly to ensure that every title adheres to the **latest CBSE curriculum** and incorporates **Competency-Based Learning** as per **NEP 2020** guidelines.

Each publication, including this series of **CBSE Previous Year Question Papers**, is designed to serve as a reliable guide for exam preparation and concept mastery.

At SWAN India Publication, we take pride in supporting students, teachers, and parents by providing resources that bridge the gap between classroom learning and exam performance. We are dedicated to nurturing learners who think critically, express clearly, and perform confidently.

“Every page we print carries a purpose — to inspire learning, ignite curiosity, and empower success.”