

ENGLISH CORE

CBSE Class XI | Vacation Assignment | Set 1

Time Allowed: 3 Hours	Maximum Marks: 80
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General Instructions

1. The question paper contains three sections: Reading Skills, Grammar & Creative Writing Skills, and Literature.
2. Attempt all questions. Follow the word limits wherever specified.
3. Marks are indicated against each question. Write answers neatly and support interpretations with textual evidence.

Section A — Reading Skills (20 marks)

Q1. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow. (10 marks)

Communities often assume that progress depends chiefly on new technology. Yet the most useful innovations are sometimes simple changes in habits: sharing resources, repairing objects instead of replacing them, and designing public spaces where people can meet. Such choices reduce waste while strengthening relationships. A library, for example, offers more than books; it gives students a quiet place to work and residents a reason to interact. Similarly, a well-maintained park can encourage exercise, informal learning and a sense of shared responsibility. These benefits do not happen automatically. Public spaces need thoughtful planning, regular care and the participation of the people who use them. When citizens contribute ideas and take responsibility for common facilities, they begin to see themselves not merely as consumers of services but as partners in shaping their neighbourhood. Sustainable progress, therefore, is not only about what a society builds; it is also about how people use, protect and improve what they share.

Answer: (a) What kinds of simple changes can support progress? (2) (b) State two benefits of a library or park mentioned in the passage. (2) (c) Why do public spaces need regular care and participation? (2) (d) Explain the contrast between being a consumer and being a partner. (2) (e) Suggest a suitable title and justify it in one sentence. (2)

Q2. Read the passage and make notes using headings and subheadings. Add an appropriate title and write a summary in 80–100 words. (10 marks)

Many students believe that effective study requires long hours at a desk. Research on learning habits suggests that the quality of attention matters as much as the time spent. Short, focused study sessions with planned breaks can help learners remain alert. Retrieval practice—trying to recall information without looking at notes—often strengthens memory more effectively than repeatedly rereading the same page. Spacing revision over several days also helps learners identify gaps before an examination. Sleep is equally important because the brain consolidates learning during rest. A realistic timetable should include difficult subjects when concentration is strongest, regular meals, movement and time for recreation. Digital devices can be useful for research and practice, but notifications may interrupt attention. Students can reduce distractions by keeping phones away during focused work and checking messages at planned times. The aim is not to study every available minute; it is to build a steady routine that supports understanding, confidence and well-being.

Section B — Grammar & Creative Writing Skills (20 marks)

Q3. Attempt any five of the following. (5 × 1 = 5)

- (a) Fill in the blank: Neither of the answers ____ correct. (is/are)
- (b) Rewrite using the correct tense: By the time we reached the station, the train (leave).
- (c) Report the sentence: The teacher said, "Submit your projects tomorrow."
- (d) Correct the error: Each of the players have received a certificate.
- (e) Fill in the blank with a suitable determiner: There is ____ milk left in the jug.
- (f) Combine using a relative clause: I met a scientist. She studies climate change.

Q4. You are the Cultural Secretary of your school. Write a notice in about 50 words inviting students to participate in an inter-house debate competition. Include date, venue, eligibility and contact details. (4 marks)

Q5. Write a formal letter to the Municipal Commissioner about unsafe pedestrian crossings near your school. Suggest practical measures. (120–150 words) (5 marks)

Q6. Write an article for your school magazine on “Balancing Academic Goals and Mental Well-being” in 150–200 words. (6 marks)

Section C — Literature (40 marks)

Q7. Answer any four in 40–50 words each. ($4 \times 3 = 12$)

- (a) In a prose text you have studied, how does the setting influence the central conflict?
- (b) Explain how a narrator's point of view shapes a reader's understanding of events.
- (c) Describe one moment in a poem where imagery creates a strong emotional effect.
- (d) How can a character's actions reveal values that are not stated directly?
- (e) Explain how contrast is used to develop a theme in a prescribed text.

Q8. Answer any two in 80–100 words each. ($2 \times 5 = 10$)

- (a) Discuss how a prescribed prose text presents the relationship between individual choices and social expectations.
- (b) Examine the role of memory or the past in shaping a character's present.
- (c) How does a poet use sound, rhythm or repetition to reinforce meaning in a prescribed poem?

Q9. Read the extract from a poem prescribed in your textbook (teacher to select an appropriate extract) and answer the questions on imagery, tone, theme and poetic devices. (8 marks)

- (a) Identify one image and explain its effect. (2) (b) Describe the tone with evidence. (2) (c) Identify one poetic device and explain its contribution. (2) (d) State the central idea in your own words. (2)

Q10. Answer both questions in 120–150 words each. ($2 \times 5 = 10$)

- (a) Write a character sketch of a significant character from a prescribed prose chapter, using two specific incidents.
- (b) Compare the central concerns of any two prescribed poems or prose texts. Support your response with details from the texts.