



The Savvy Humanities

SIMPLIFYING MINDS, SHAPING THINKERS

CLASS 12 · CBSE 2026-27 SYLLABUS

Complete subject

English Core

Reading, Writing, Flamingo and Vistas (301)

195

pages of notes

23

chapters, three sections

137

board-pattern questions solved

80 / 80

theory marks covered

What's inside

- Section A: unseen passages, method and practice
- Section B: all four writing tasks, set out
- Section C: all 19 texts, Flamingo and Vistas
- Twenty-three mind maps, one for every chapter
- Summaries, characters, themes and devices
- CBSE sample paper 2026-27: writing and literature solved
- One combined glossary — 134 key terms
- One question bank — 137 model answers

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Handwritten-style, for revision

Every page inside is handwritten-style with highlighting, boxes and a mind map — built to be read the night before, not skimmed.



Contents

The whole CBSE Class 12 English Core course (subject code 301) for the **80-mark** board paper of 2026-27: reading, the four writing tasks, and every prescribed lesson and poem of *Flamingo* and *Vistas* — twenty-three chapters, in the order of CBSE's paper.

Ch.	Title	Marks or kind	Page
Section A — Reading Skills (22 marks)			
1	Reading Comprehension through Unseen Passages	22	6
Section B — Creative Writing Skills (18 marks)			
2	Notice, Invitations and Replies	8	14
3	Letters	5	22
4	Article and Report Writing	5	29
Section C — Literature Text Book and Supplementary Reading Text (40 marks)			
Flamingo — 27 marks			
5	The Last Lesson	Prose	37
6	Lost Spring	Prose	42
7	Deep Water	Prose	47
8	The Rattrap	Prose	52
9	Indigo	Prose	57
10	Poets and Pancakes	Prose	62
11	The Interview	Prose	67
12	Going Places	Prose	72
13	My Mother at Sixty-Six	Poem	77
14	Keeping Quiet	Poem	81
15	A Thing of Beauty	Poem	85
16	A Roadside Stand	Poem	89
17	Aunt Jennifer's Tigers	Poem	93
Vistas — 13 marks			
18	The Third Level	Prose	97
19	The Tiger King	Prose	102
20	Journey to the End of the Earth	Prose	107
21	The Enemy	Prose	112
22	On the Face of It	Play	117
23	Memories of Childhood	Prose	122
My Class 12 English Core tracker — all twenty-three chapters on one page			2
Combined glossary — 134 key terms, tagged by chapter			127
Question bank — 137 solved questions, grouped by chapter			132



SECTION A · READING SKILLS — 22 MARKS OF 80

Chapter 1

Reading Comprehension through Unseen Passages

What the paper wants from this chapter

Section A, Reading Skills, carries 22 of the paper's 80 marks. It sets one unseen passage of 12 marks and one case-based passage with data of 10 marks, 700–750 words together, with multiple-choice, objective-type and short-answer questions. Prepare a fixed method of reading, the ten kinds of question and the 40-word answer for two marks. Two full practice passages are solved in the question bank at the back of this book.

Not in this chapter. The two passages of CBSE's 2026-27 sample paper are not reprinted. They are taken from a news website and a government press release, and these notes do not copy them; the two solved passages are written afresh on the same pattern. Note-making is not set in the Class 12 paper and is left out.

Chapter at a Glance — Mind Map

The paper

- Two passages, 22 marks
- 12 marks plus 10
- 700–750 words together

Question kinds

- Evidence and reason
- Purpose, inference, tone
- Main idea, NOT discussed
- Figures compared

Tables and charts

- Heading, units, total
- Highest, lowest, trend
- Times versus percentage change

Method

- Questions first
- Skim, then read closely
- Answer from named paragraph
- Check

Two-mark answer

- About 40 words
- Two value points
- Judgement plus justification

Mistakes

- One option only
- Passage, not general knowledge
- Own words, right numbering



Where This Chapter Sits

Section A, Reading Skills, opens the board paper and carries 22 of its 80 marks. It sets two passages that you have never seen, so nothing can be learnt by heart. What can be learnt is a method of reading, the kinds of question that CBSE's 2026-27 sample paper asks, and the way its marking scheme gives marks. This chapter teaches all three and then solves two full passages.

Marks

Passage 1 carries **12 marks**. Passage 2, which comes with data, carries **10 marks**. Together they make 22 of 80: more than a quarter of the paper.

Exam tip

Every answer is in the passage or in its table. Before you write, put your finger on the sentence or the figure that proves your answer. If you cannot find it, you are guessing.

1. What the Paper Sets

Feature	Passage 1	Passage 2
Marks	12	10
Kind	One unseen passage: factual, descriptive or literary	One case-based factual passage with verbal or visual inputs such as statistical data and charts
Parts in the 2026-27 sample paper	Ten: eight of 1 mark and two of 2 marks	Eight: six of 1 mark and two of 2 marks

Together the two passages run to **700-750 words**. Three types of question are set on them.

Type of question	What you write	Marks
Multiple-choice	One option out of four	1
Objective-type	A word, a phrase or a sentence: the evidence asked for, the end of a sentence, a blank filled in	1
Short-answer	Two or three sentences. The sample paper says "Answer in about 40 words".	2

Passage 1 may be of any of its three kinds, so practise all three.

2. A Method for Reading

Use the same five steps for both passages.

- 1. Read the questions first.** Read what each question asks, not its options. Underline the paragraph number and the key word in each. You now know what to look for.
- 2. Skim the passage.** Read the first paragraph, the first sentence of each paragraph after it, and the last paragraph. Settle two things: what the passage is about, and what the writer thinks of it.



3. **Read closely with a pencil.** Read every sentence. Underline names, figures and linking words such as "but", "however", "because" and "therefore": they mark contrasts and reasons, and questions are set on them. Beside each paragraph write its topic in two or three words. In passage 2, read the heading of the table, its labels and its units before its numbers.
4. **Answer from the paragraph the question names.** Go back to it, find the sentence, and only then write.
5. **Check.** See that every part is attempted and numbered as in the paper, that each multiple-choice answer has one option only, and that each two-mark answer is near 40 words.

The time plan below is advice, not a rule of CBSE. It gives Section A 40 of the 180 minutes and leaves 140 for Sections B and C, which carry 58 marks.

Step	Passage 1 (12 marks)	Passage 2 (10 marks)
Questions, then skim	4 minutes	3 minutes
Close reading	6 minutes	5 minutes
Writing the answers	10 minutes	8 minutes
Checking	2 minutes	2 minutes
Total	22 minutes	18 minutes

3. The Kinds of Question and How to Answer Each

CBSE's 2026-27 sample paper uses these ten kinds.

Kind of question	What it tests	How to find the answer	Mistake to avoid
Evidence in a named paragraph	Finding the fact that proves a statement	Go to the paragraph and pick the one sentence that proves it. Give its fact briefly.	An opinion of your own, or a fact from another paragraph
Complete the sentence with a reason	Cause and effect	Look near the idea for "because", "since", "so" or "therefore". Your words must finish the sentence correctly.	Repeating the first half of the sentence; a reason that does not join on
Multiple-choice: what a word, phrase or detail does	Why the writer put it there: to explain, to give an example, to contrast, to stress or to warn	Read the sentence before it and the sentence after it. Ask what the reader would lose without it.	The dictionary meaning of the word in place of its work in this passage
Inference	What the passage suggests without stating it	Put two stated facts together. The right option rests on both and adds nothing.	An option that is true in life but has no support in the passage



Kind of question	What it tests	How to find the answer	Mistake to avoid
The writer's tone	The writer's attitude to the subject	Collect the words of judgement and name the attitude they share.	Judging by the subject: a passage on a disaster can be calm and factual
The main idea	Seeing the passage as a whole	Add up the topics you wrote beside the paragraphs. Choose the option that covers them all.	A true statement that covers one paragraph only
"Which is NOT discussed"	Careful scanning	Find each option in the passage and tick it off. The one left over is the answer.	Forgetting "NOT" and marking the first option you find
Fill in from the words in brackets	Exact reading of one detail	Find the sentence or the figure. Try each word in the blank.	A word of your own that is not in the brackets
Comparison of figures with a reason	Reading data and explaining it	Take both figures, do the sum, then add the reason the passage gives.	Figures without the reason, or the reason without the figures
Two marks, about 40 words	Explaining or justifying in your own words	Find two points in the paragraph named. Section 4 shows how to write them.	One point stretched over 40 words

A worked example

(1) Cutting an onion makes most cooks cry, though no one in the kitchen is sad. The knife breaks the onion's cells, and substances that were kept apart inside them mix and form a gas. When the gas reaches the eyes, it irritates them, and the eyes produce tears to wash it away. A sharp knife helps, because it crushes fewer cells. So does chilling the onion first: cold slows the reaction, and less gas rises.

Question	Answer	Why
(i) Evidence. Which words show that the tears are useful to the eye?	"to wash it away"	The tears remove the gas. Words are asked for, so words are given, without comment.
(ii) What a phrase does. "Though no one in the kitchen is sad" is added to (a) describe the cook (b) show that these tears have a physical cause (c) make the reader laugh (d) praise the onion.	(b)	The next two sentences give that cause: a gas that irritates the eyes.
(iii) Inference. What would a blunt knife do?	It would cause more tears.	A sharp knife helps because it crushes fewer cells. A blunt one crushes more, so more gas forms.



Question	Answer	Why
(iv) Fill in. A chilled onion gives off _____ gas. (more / less / no)	less	The passage says that less gas rises. It does not say that none does.

4. The Two-mark Answer

The marking scheme gives the two marks in one of two ways.

The question asks you to	First mark	Second mark
Explain or give reasons ("How ...?", "Why ...?")	One value point from the passage	A second value point from the passage
Judge ("Do you agree?", "Justify", "Is the title apt?")	Your judgement, stated plainly	The justification: the evidence in the passage

A frame for about 40 words:

- 1. Sentence 1** answers the question in its own key words and gives the first point (15 to 20 words).
- 2. Sentence 2** gives the second point, or the justification, with a detail from the passage (15 to 20 words).
- 3. Stop.** Write no introduction, no "In my opinion" and no closing moral. Use your own words and the key terms of the passage.

Model: a two-mark answer

Question on the onion passage: Which two pieces of advice does the passage offer a cook who wants to shed fewer tears, and why does each work? Answer in about 40 words.

Answer: The cook should use a sharp knife, which crushes fewer of the onion's cells, so that less gas forms. The cook should also chill the onion before cutting it, because cold slows the reaction that produces the gas.

That is 38 words: one mark for each piece of advice with its reason.

5. Reading Tables and Charts

The data of passage 2 may be a table, a bar chart, a line graph or a pie chart. It is part of the text. Read its heading, its labels, its units and its total before any single figure.

To find	Do this
A total	Add the column and check the sum against the printed total
The highest and the lowest	Scan one column at a time, never across two
A rise or a fall	Later figure – earlier figure
"How many times"	Later figure ÷ earlier figure