

LAST-HOUR CRAM SHEET · English Core

CBSE Class 12 English Core (301) · Theory 80 +
Internal 20 · Read this in the 60 minutes before you
walk in

A. The Paper at a Glance

Section	Name	Marks	What it is
A	Reading Skills	22	Unseen passage (12) + case-based passage with chart (10)
B	Creative Writing Skills	18	Notice (4) + Invitation (4) + Letter (5) + Article/Report (5)
C	Literature	40	Flamingo + Vistas — extracts, short and long answers
Internal Assessment		20	Listening 5 + Speaking 5 + Project 10

STRATEGY — the time plan Section A: 35 min

· Section B: 45 min · Section C: 90 min ·

Revision: 10 min

Section B is the most *predictable* — roughly 9 of its 18 marks are format, organisation and accuracy, which you can secure before knowing the topic. Do it confidently and quickly to protect time for Section C.

B. Section C — the exact question breakdown

Q	Question	Marks	Choice
7	Poetry extract — Flamingo	6 (6×1)	1 of 2
8	Prose extract — Vistas	4 (4×1)	1 of 2
9	Prose extract — Flamingo	6 (6×1)	1 of 2
10	Short answers — Flamingo prose & poetry, 40–50 words	10 (5×2)	5 of 6
11	Short answers — Vistas , 40–50 words	4 (2×2)	2 of 3
12	Long answer — Flamingo , 120–150 words	5	1 of 2
13	Long answer — Vistas , 120–150 words	5	1 of 2

C. Section B — the mark splits, memorised

EXACTLY WHAT THE EXAMINER TICKS

Question	Total	Format	Organisation	Content	Accuracy
Notice (≤50 words)	4	1	—	2	1
Invitation & Reply (≤50)	4	1	—	2	1
Letter (120–150)	5	1	1	2	1
Article / Report (120–150)	5	1	1	2	1

THE FOUR SKELETONS **NOTICE — BOXED.**

School name → **NOTICE** (centred, caps) →
Date → Heading → body with the *five W's*
→ Signature + Name + **Designation**. Third person.

FORMAL INVITATION — THIRD PERSON, centred, no salutation, no signature. Ends with RSVP.

FORMAL REPLY — third person; if declining, give a reason.

LETTER — Sender's address → Date → Receiver's address → **Subject (underlined)** → Sir/Madam → 3 paragraphs → Yours faithfully + Name. Job application adds a **BIO-DATA** block.

ARTICLE — Title → by Name → intro / body / conclusion. **Subjective, present tense.**

REPORT — Title → by Name, designation, place, date → what/where/when, details, conclusion. **Objective, past tense, often passive.**

D. Literature — the whole syllabus in one table

FLAMINGO — PROSE (8)

Chapter	Author	Theme & key detail
The Last Lesson	Alphonse Daudet	Linguistic chauvinism ; Franz, M. Hamel, "Vive La France!"
Lost Spring	Anees Jung	Child labour ; Saheb (Seemapuri), Mukesh (Firozabad bangles)
Deep Water	William Douglas	Overcoming fear ; YMCA pool, instructor, Warm Lake
The Rattrap	Selma Lagerlöf	World as a rattrap ; Edla's kindness redeems the peddler

Indigo	Louis Fischer	Champaran 1917 ; Rajkumar Shukla, 15% land, 25% refund
Poets and Pancakes	Asokamitran	Gemini Studios satire ; make-up dept, Subbu, Stephen Spender
The Interview	Christopher Silvester	Interview as intrusion vs art ; Umberto Eco
Going Places	A. R. Barton	Fantasy vs reality ; Sophie, Jansie, Danny Casey

FLAMINGO — POETRY (5)

Poem	Poet	Theme & key device
My Mother at Sixty-Six	Kamala Das	Ageing, filial fear ; simile "ashen like a corpse"; one sentence, no full stop
Keeping Quiet	Pablo Neruda	Introspection, peace ; "count to twelve"; NOT inactivity
A Thing of Beauty	John Keats	Beauty is permanent ; from <i>Endymion</i> ; "endless fountain of immortal drink"
A Roadside Stand	Robert Frost	Rural poverty ; oxymorons "greedy good-doers", "beneficent beasts of prey"
Aunt Jennifer's Tigers	Adrienne Rich	Patriarchy, art outlives artist ; "massive weight of Uncle's wedding band"

VISTAS (6)

Chapter	Author	Theme & key detail
The Third Level	Jack Finney	Escapism ; Galesburg 1894, first-day cover, Sam

The Tiger King	Kalki	Satire on power ; 100th tiger, the wooden tiger kills him
Journey to the End of the Earth	Tishani Doshi	Climate change ; Gondwana, phytoplankton, Students on Ice
The Enemy	Pearl S. Buck	Humanity above nationalism ; Dr Sadao, Hana, the General
On the Face of It	Susan Hill	Disability & acceptance ; Derry (acid burn), Mr Lamb (tin leg)
Memories of Childhood	Zitkala-Sa & Bama	Racial + caste oppression ; shingled hair; vadai carried by string

E. Poetic Devices — with an example from the syllabus

Device	Definition	Example
Simile	Comparison with like / as	"ashen like that of a corpse"
Metaphor	Direct comparison, no like/as	"endless fountain of immortal drink"
Personification	Human qualities to non-human	"young trees sprinting "
Alliteration	Repeated initial consonant	" f ingers f luttering"
Oxymoron	Two contradictory words joined	" greedy good-doers "
Symbolism	Object standing for an idea	Tigers = freedom; wedding band = oppression
Repetition	Deliberate repeating	"smile and smile and smile"

Irony	Opposite of what is expected	"beneficent beasts of prey"
Imagery	Appeals to the senses	"merry children spilling out of their homes"
Free verse	No regular rhyme or metre	<i>Keeping Quiet</i>

F. Rules You Must Not Get Wrong

MEMORISE EXACTLY

- **Section A: the answer is always IN the passage.** Outside knowledge earns nothing.
- **Never leave an MCQ blank** — there is no negative marking.
- **Formal invitation and reply are THIRD PERSON** — no “Dear”, no “Yours sincerely”, no signature.
- **Declining an invitation requires a REASON.**
- **Notice must be BOXED**, with name + designation in the signature, and the five W's in the body.
- **Sir/Madam pairs with Yours faithfully.** Only the Y is capital.
- **Letter subject line is compulsory and underlined.** Three paragraphs.
- **Article = subjective, present tense.**
Report = objective, past tense, passive, byline with designation.
- **Keeping Quiet is NOT about inactivity** — Neruda says so explicitly.

- Aunt Jennifer's tigers survive her — art outlives the artist. That contrast is the poem.
- The Tiger King is killed by a **WOODEN** tiger — a sliver of wood.
- Dr Sadao disliked Americans and saved one anyway — that is the story's strength.
- Derry's handicap is psychological; Mr Lamb's is physical.
- Long answers (5 marks) need extrapolation, not plot summary.

G. How to Write for Marks

Question	Structure
MCQ / 1 mark	Option or one line. No explanation.
40–50 words (2 marks)	Direct answer → textual detail → one line of explanation. Stay within the limit.
120–150 words (5 marks)	One-line context → three developed points, each with a textual detail → closing line on the theme or value.
Extract (6 or 4)	Answer from the extract given , not from memory. Expect one poetic device question.
Section B	Lay out the skeleton first — that secures Format and Organisation before you write any content.

THE THREE HABITS THAT SAVE MARKS — **1.** In Section A, **underline the answer in the passage** and write the question number beside it as you read. **2.** In Section B, **draw the format first**, fill content second, proofread third. **3.** In Section C, for every chapter know **author + theme + one quotable detail** — those three answer almost everything.