

CBSE Class 12 English paper: get your Boards off to a flying start

TIPS AND TRICKS Use the first 15 minutes judiciously to comprehend what is asked in the English paper



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The beginning is the most important part of the work – Plato

The countdown has begun. The butterflies in your stomach must have started fluttering madly. The importance of English as a global language cannot be underestimated. The first paper to be held on March 9 happens to be the one that sets the tone for the remaining subjects. Therefore, it is imperative to do well in the English examination.

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

As the paper, in general, is considered lengthy, time management is critical to be able to complete it.

Try to finish both section A and section B in about one-and-a-half hours.

Writing regularly helps you develop your capability of expressing your ideas clearly and explicitly.

Practice reading and comprehension skills on a regular basis. (Newspapers are a good source).

Solve previous years' papers or CBSE sample papers to practice time management.

Solve at least one three-hour test paper every week.

A minimum of two writing skills (take up contemporary issues), adhering to the prescribed word limits along with at least two unseen passages and two separate passages for note making must be practised every week and preferably evaluated by your teacher.

While writing, try to relate to the lessons from your textbooks with issues/topics (for example Lost Spring, Elementary School Classroom in a Slum – Child Labour, Tiger King – Corruption in High places, Indigo, Deep Water – Courage etc.)

Practice/revise formats for writing skills.

Theme/plot/incidents/character sketch of the prescribed novel must be practised.

The value-based and the long answer type (LA) question needs to be differentiated properly. Both are 6-markers, to be answered in about 120-150 words and need extrapolation beyond the prescribed text. While answering the value-based question, the emphasis should be on the theme with minimal or a sketchy reference to the text whereas while answering the long answer type question extrapolate 'referring to the context'. You must not commit the mistake of writing the summary of the text as the answer to the long answer type question.

THINGS TO DO IN THE EXAMINATION HALL

Utilise the reading time of 15 minutes judiciously. These 15 minutes are for you to read and comprehend; do not try to search for answers during this period but rather try to understand what's being asked of you in the paper.

Do remember that, while answering, presentation matters. Write your answers in neat and legible handwriting, and leave space between answers, underline the value points.

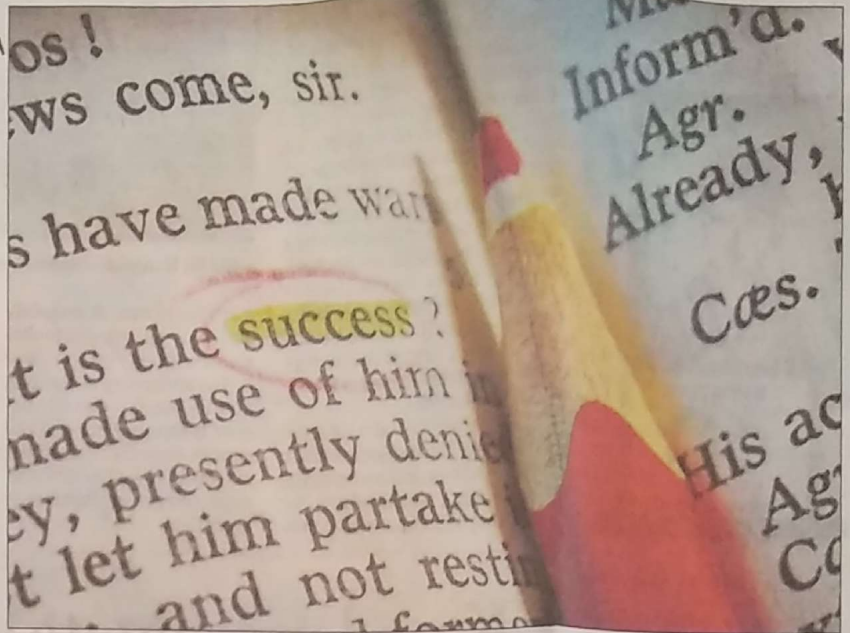
Try to attempt the question paper in a sequence.

Be aware that the questions framed in the reading section (Section-A) are always in sequence, i.e. the answer to question number (i) will always be in the sentences before the answer to question number (ii).

Do not hesitate to quote directly from the passage. "If a student literally lifts a portion of the given passage/extract from the question paper as an answer to a question, no mark(s) to be deducted on this count as long as it is relevant and indicative of the desired understanding on the part of the student (reference question under Q1)" CBSE guidelines say.

Be creative but logical in expressing yourself while attempting the questions of Section-B (writing skills). Use quotes or phrases. This section analyses the writing skills and abilities (knowledge/understanding/application) grammatical accuracy, appropriate use of words, style, spelling, organisation and presentation of relevant matter in a coherent way.

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The CBSE English paper for Class 12 Boards is scheduled for March 9.

ISTOCK

Mathematics is not as terrifying as you think it is

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Students often feel mathematics is one of the toughest hurdles during examinations and worry unnecessarily about the paper when they should know that all it takes is a simple, effective preparation strategy to score good marks.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has released the Class 12 Board exam date sheet for 2017 and mathematics is scheduled for March 20. The plan for the remaining days must focus on the following five most important points.

PRE-EXAM PLANNING

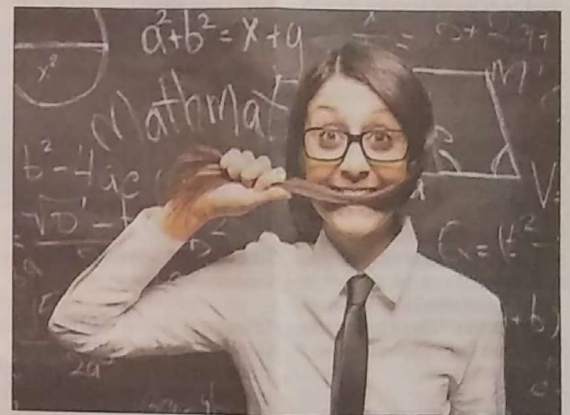
Each lesson has to be revised over two days.

Go through each topic thoroughly and include all examples and exercises from the NCERT book and NCERT Exemplar.

Revise the subject keeping the weightage and the pattern in mind. The approach is explained below with the example of one chapter:

Chapter: Matrices and determinants; Weightage: 13 marks. Distribution of marks: 6+4+2+1 - to be the expected pattern.

Create five sets of papers of the said weightage and answer each set in 20 minutes (1.5 minutes per 1 mark). The same approach is to be followed for



Make sure you revise each chapter thoroughly and include all examples and exercises from the NCERT book.

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all chapters as per their weightage and pattern. The time taken should be proportionate to 1.5 minute per 1 mark. This practice will help you balance both content and time management.

Write one full syllabus test every week and get it checked by your teachers. You should complete these test papers in 2 ½ hrs (instead of the actual three hours). If possible, do this test between 10.30 am and 1 pm.

Avoid these errors:
(a) Numerical calculation
(b) Forgetting to add + C in indefinite integral questions
(c) Forgetting to write the equations of the line (3-D) in standard form before starting any further calculation.

HOW TO SAIL THROUGH EXAM DAY

Get good sleep, eat a regular breakfast and reach your exam centre on time.

Make sure you have your admit card and complete pencil box including two sharpened pencils, two good quality pens, erasers, compass and scale.

Use the reading time judiciously before you start writing the test. Make a strategy and prioritise the order in which the questions need to be answered.

Preferably start with section D. Start every 6-mark question on a new page.

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