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A Roadside Stand — CBSE Class 12 English Core Chapter Test

FREE CHAPTER TEST · CLASS XII · ENGLISH CORE (301) · PATTERN OF THE CBSE SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER 2026-27

TIME ALLOWED	MAXIMUM MARKS	QUESTIONS	NAME / ROLL NO.
45 minutes	21	13 (A 8 · B 4 · C 1)	

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. This question paper contains 13 questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. This question paper is divided into three sections: A, B and C.
3. Section A (Q1–8) contains objective questions of 1 mark each.
4. Section B (Q9–12) contains short answer questions of 2 marks each; answer in 40–50 words.
5. Section C (Q13) contains a long answer question of 5 marks with an internal choice; answer in 120–150 words and attempt only one of the alternatives.
6. Answer in your own words, within the word limits.
7. This chapter test follows the question types, marks and word limits of the Literature section (Section C) of the CBSE Class XII English Core (301) Sample Question Paper 2026-27, for one chapter: 21 marks in 45 minutes.
8. The answer key and the marking scheme are at the end of this booklet. Attempt the paper in 45 minutes before you look at them.

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Chapter: A Roadside Stand (Flamingo) · **Topics:** The roadside stand · City and country · The good-doers · The poet's sympathy

SECTION A

This section comprises 8 objective questions of 1 mark each, testing comprehension, interpretation, inference and appreciation of the chapter.

1. What do the rural people sell at the roadside stand? 1

(A) Clothes and shoes

(B) Wild berries and squash

(C) Toys and books

(D) Tea and snacks

2. How do most of the city people in cars behave towards the roadside stand? 1

(A) They stop and buy everything.

(B) They greet the sellers warmly.

(C) They rush past without a look; the few who stop only ask the way or complain.

(D) They give money in charity.

3. What do the rural people really want from the city folk? 1

(A) Some city money, which would bring them the life they see in the movies

(B) Free food and clothes

(C) A chance to move to the city

(D) Nothing at all

4. The poet calls the officials and well-wishers who plan to help the poor 1

(A) kind-hearted angels

(B) honest traders

(C) simple folk

(D) greedy good-doers and beneficent beasts of prey

5. According to the poet, if the poor are moved near the theatre and the store, they will 1

(A) become rich

(B) be looked after, but will sleep their lives away, idle and dependent

(C) start their own business

(D) go back to their villages

6. What does the squeal of brakes mean to the people at the stand? 1

(A) A traffic accident

(B) The arrival of officials

(C) The hope — usually in vain — that a customer has stopped to buy

(D) The end of the day

7. What is the tone of A Roadside Stand? 1

(A) Sympathetic towards the rural poor and critical of the indifferent city people

(B) Humorous and light

(C) Angry at the rural people

(D) Purely descriptive

8. At the end, the poet feels that it would be a relief to 1

(A) leave the countryside

(B) buy everything at the stand

(C) become a politician

(D) put the poor out of their pain at one stroke, and wonders whether the same would be offered to him

SECTION B

This section comprises 4 short answer questions of 2 marks each. Answer each in 40–50 words.

9. Why are the rural people disappointed with the passing city traffic? (40–50 words) 2

10. Why does the poet call the good-doers beneficent beasts of prey? (40–50 words) 2

11. What childish longing does the poet refer to in the poem? (40–50 words) 2

12. What is the poet's attitude towards the city people? (40–50 words) 2

SECTION C

This section comprises 1 long answer question of 5 marks. Answer in 120–150 words.

13. (a) A Roadside Stand presents the contrast between the urban rich and the rural poor. Discuss. (120–150 words) 5

OR

(b) How does Robert Frost express his sympathy for the rural poor in A Roadside Stand? (120–150 words)

END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

ANSWER KEY — SECTION A

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8
(B)	(C)	(A)	(D)	(B)	(C)	(A)	(D)

MARKING SCHEME AND WORKED SOLUTIONS

Value points are shown with their marks in brackets. Credit any other relevant point made in the student's own words.

Q1. Answer (B). The poor farmers put up a little stand to sell wild berries and squash.

Q2. Answer (C). The polished traffic is self-absorbed; those who stop ask for directions or gas, or complain that the stand spoils the scenery.

Q3. Answer (A). They want a fair share of the city's prosperity through honest trade, not charity.

Q4. Answer (D). The oxymoron shows that their help is selfish and exploitative.

Q5. Answer (B). Such schemes make them dependent and rob them of purpose.

Q6. Answer (C). Every squeal of brakes raises hope of a sale, which is usually disappointed.

Q7. Answer (A). Frost feels for the poor and criticises the callousness of the rich and the hypocrisy of the do-gooders.

Q8. Answer (D). In despair at their suffering, he imagines ending it, and then turns the thought on himself.

Q9. (2 marks) Answer: they hope for sales but are ignored.
They had put up the stand hoping to earn some city money through honest trade; [1] but the cars rush past without looking, and the few who stop only ask the way or for gas, or complain about the scenery. [1]

Q10. (2 marks) Answer: selfish exploiters disguised as helpers.
They pretend to be kind and claim to help the poor, [1] but in fact they serve their own interests, exploiting the poor and making them dependent — so they are predators disguised as benefactors. [1]

Q11. (2 marks) Answer: innocent hope of earning and a better life, in vain.
The longing of the poor rural people to earn some city money and share the comforts of city life, [1] a simple, innocent hope that remains unfulfilled because the city people do not stop to buy. [1]

Q12. (2 marks) Answer: critical of their indifference and hypocrisy.
He is critical of them: they are rich, self-absorbed and insensitive to the poor; [1] they see the stand only as a blot on the landscape, and their officials make false promises to the poor. [1]

Q13. (5 marks) Answer: rich indifference v. poor hope; hypocrisy of good-doers; poet's sympathy.
Value points [5]: the poor put up a stand to sell berries and squash, hoping for some city money; the polished city traffic rushes by, self-absorbed; those who stop ask the way or for gas, or complain the stand spoils the view; the poor wait for customers, and every squeal of brakes raises a hope that is dashed; officials and greedy good-doers plan to move them close to the theatre and store, making them dependent and idle; Frost sympathises with the poor, criticises the indifference of the rich and the hypocrisy of the do-gooders, and feels the pain of their unfulfilled longing.
OR Value points [5]: he describes their small, pathetic stand and their wish for some city money — not charity but trade; he feels their disappointment as cars rush past and their hope at every squeal of brakes; he attacks the greedy good-doers who plan to resettle them and make them dependent; in the end he feels such pain at their condition that he imagines ending it at one stroke, and turns the question on himself; the tone is sad and compassionate.

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