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A Thing of Beauty — 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 Thing of Beauty (Flamingo) · **Topics:** Beauty as permanent joy · Beauty and the sorrows of life · Images of nature · Romantic view of beauty

SECTION A

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

1. Read the following extract and answer Questions 1–6. 1

A thing of beauty is a joy for ever:
Its loveliness increases; it will never
Pass into nothingness; but still will keep
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing.
Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways
Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
From our dark spirits.

According to the poet, a thing of beauty

(A) gives joy only for a short time

(B) gives us joy for ever, and its loveliness keeps increasing

(C) loses its charm when it grows old

(D) is enjoyed only by poets

2. A 'bower quiet for us' suggests 1

(A) a noisy city

(B) a garden full of crowds

(C) a shady, peaceful shelter that gives rest and calm

(D) a prison

3. The 'flowery band' that binds us to the earth stands for 1

(A) the beautiful things that keep us attached to life

(B) a garland given at a wedding

(C) a chain of sorrows

(D) the roots of trees

4. Which of the following is NOT among the troubles of life listed in the extract? 1

(A) despondence (hopelessness)

(B) the dearth of noble natures

(C) gloomy days

(D) the joy of sweet dreams

5. 'Some shape of beauty moves away the pall from our dark spirits.' Here 'pall' means 1

(A) a covering of gloom and sadness

(B) a bright light

(C) a heavy stone

(D) a festive cloth

6. The opening line of the extract mainly expresses 1

(A) the poet's anger

(B) a ballad story

(C) the poet's belief in the lasting, healing power of beauty

(D) a dialogue between two speakers

7. In the rest of the poem, which of these is NOT given as an example of a thing of beauty? 1

(A) the sun and the moon

(B) daffodils and clear rills

(C) lovely tales we have heard or read

(D) the inhuman dearth of noble natures

8. The poet calls the beautiful things of the earth an endless fountain of immortal drink because 1

(A) they come from the sea

(B) they give us lasting joy and spiritual strength, as if poured from heaven

(C) they can be drunk

(D) they never change their form

SECTION B

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

9. What makes human beings love life in spite of troubles, according to Keats? (40–50 words) 2

10. Why is grandeur associated with the mighty dead? (40–50 words) 2

11. How do the clear rills and the mid-forest brake show beauty? (40–50 words) 2

12. What image does the poet use for the never-ending source of beauty, and what does it mean? (40–50 words) 2

SECTION C

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

13. (a) A thing of beauty is a joy for ever. Explain how, according to Keats, beauty helps us to face the sorrows of life. (120–150 words) 5

OR

(b) Discuss the imagery of nature in A Thing of Beauty and what it reveals about the poet's view of life. (120–150 words)

END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

ANSWER KEY — SECTION A

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

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). A thing of beauty is a joy for ever; its loveliness increases and it never passes into nothingness.

Q2. Answer (C). A bower is a shady, leafy shelter; beauty gives us peace like such a quiet retreat.

Q3. Answer (A). Every day we weave a band of beautiful things that keeps us bound to the earth despite our troubles.

Q4. Answer (D). Despondence, the lack of noble people, gloomy days and unhealthy ways are troubles; sweet dreams are a gift of beauty.

Q5. Answer (A). A pall is a dark cloth over a coffin; beauty removes the gloom that covers our spirits.

Q6. Answer (C). The opening statement is the theme: beauty is a permanent source of joy and healing.

Q7. Answer (D). The sun, moon, trees, daffodils, rills, musk-rose blooms and the grandeur of the dooms of the mighty dead are things of beauty; the dearth of noble natures is a trouble.

Q8. Answer (B). Beauty is a divine gift that keeps refreshing and sustaining us.

Q9. (2 marks) Answer: beauty removes the gloom and binds us to life.
Life is full of despondence, gloom, unhealthy ways and the lack of noble people; [1] yet beauty in nature and art lifts the pall of sadness from our spirits, and so we remain bound to the earth and love life. [1]

Q10. (2 marks) Answer: their noble lives and imagined glory inspire us.
The mighty dead were great people who lived noble lives; [1] the stories of their deeds and the glorious fate we imagine for them give us inspiration and are themselves things of beauty. [1]

Q11. (2 marks) Answer: cool shelter of streams; forest blooming with musk roses.
The clear streams make a cool shelter for themselves against the hot season; [1] the thicket in the middle of the forest is rich with musk-rose blooms — both give refreshment and joy. [1]

Q12. (2 marks) Answer: endless fountain from heaven; divine, inexhaustible gift.
He calls it an endless fountain of immortal drink, pouring to us from the heaven's brink; [1] it means beauty is a divine, inexhaustible gift that keeps refreshing the human spirit. [1]

Q13. (5 marks) Answer: permanent joy; flowery band; removes the pall; examples.
Value points [5]: beauty is a permanent joy — its loveliness increases and it never fades; it gives a quiet bower, sweet dreams, health and peace; life is full of despondence, gloom, the lack of noble people and unhealthy ways; yet every day we weave a flowery band of beauty that binds us to the earth; beauty removes the pall of sadness from our dark spirits; the sun, moon, trees, daffodils, clear rills, musk roses, the grandeur of the mighty dead and lovely tales are such beauty; it is an endless fountain of immortal drink from heaven — a source of hope and strength.
OR Value points [5]: images of the sun, the moon, old and young trees giving shade to sheep, daffodils in the green world, clear rills making a cool covert, and the forest brake with musk-rose blooms; they show nature as a constant source of beauty, peace and refreshment; the bower, sweet dreams and quiet breathing suggest health and calm; Keats, a Romantic, believes that beauty in nature and art can heal the gloom of life and is a divine gift — an endless fountain of immortal drink.

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