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Aunt Jennifer's Tigers — 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: Aunt Jennifer's Tigers (Flamingo) · **Topics:** The tigers · Aunt Jennifer and her marriage · Symbols · Art and freedom

SECTION A

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

1. What is Aunt Jennifer making? 1

(A) A painting of tigers

(B) An embroidered panel (screen) showing tigers

(C) A wooden toy tiger

(D) A poem about tigers

2. How are the tigers described in the poem? 1

(A) Fierce hunters attacking men

(B) Sleeping in the forest

(C) Bright, proud, fearless creatures prancing in a world of green, unafraid of the men

(D) Caged animals in a zoo

3. Why do Aunt Jennifer's fingers flutter and find the needle hard to pull? 1

(A) She is old, weak and afraid — weighed down by an unhappy marriage

(B) The wool is too thick

(C) The needle is broken

(D) She is in a hurry

4. The 'massive weight' of Uncle's wedding band suggests 1

(A) the ring is made of heavy gold

(B) Uncle's wealth

(C) Aunt Jennifer's love for her husband

(D) the heavy burden and restrictions of her marriage

5. The tigers are a contrast to Aunt Jennifer because 1

(A) they are old and tired

(B) they are free, fearless and proud, while she is timid and oppressed

(C) they are afraid of men

(D) they are made of wool

6. What does the poet mean by saying Aunt Jennifer's hands will lie 'ringed with ordeals' even after her death? 1

(A) She will wear many rings.

(B) Her hands will be buried with her needlework.

(C) The marks of her suffering will remain with her even in death.

(D) She will be free after death.

7. What will happen to the tigers after Aunt Jennifer's death? 1

(A) They will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.

(B) They will fade away.

(C) They will be destroyed.

(D) They will be sold.

8. Which theme is central to Aunt Jennifer's Tigers? 1

(A) Love of animals

(B) The beauty of nature

(C) The joy of embroidery

(D) The oppression of women in marriage and the escape found through art

SECTION B

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

9. Why do you think Aunt Jennifer chose to embroider tigers? (40–50 words) 2

10. What is the significance of the word 'ringed' in the poem? (40–50 words) 2

11. What does the poem suggest about the role of art? (40–50 words) 2

12. How is Aunt Jennifer's fear shown in the poem? (40–50 words) 2

SECTION C

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

13. (a) Aunt Jennifer's Tigers shows the contrast between a woman's life of oppression and the freedom she creates in her art. Discuss. (120–150 words) 5

OR

(b) Discuss the use of symbols in Aunt Jennifer's Tigers. (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). She is embroidering tigers on a panel with wool and an ivory needle.

Q2. Answer (C). The topaz-coloured tigers move with confidence and are not afraid of the men beneath the tree.

Q3. Answer (A). Her nervous, fluttering fingers show the fear and burden of her married life.

Q4. Answer (D). The ring is a symbol of the oppressive marriage that weighs her down.

Q5. Answer (B). She creates in art the freedom and courage she lacks in life.

Q6. Answer (C). Ringed suggests both the wedding ring and the circle of hardships she endured.

Q7. Answer (A). Art outlives the artist; the tigers remain a symbol of courage and freedom.

Q8. Answer (D). The poem contrasts a woman's constrained life with the free spirit she expresses in her art.

Q9. (2 marks) Answer: to express the freedom and courage she lacks.
The tigers are strong, fearless and free — everything she is not; [1] through them she expresses her suppressed longing for freedom and courage, which she cannot show in her married life. [1]

Q10. (2 marks) Answer: wedding ring and encircling hardships.
It refers to the wedding ring — the symbol of her marriage and its burdens; [1] it also suggests being surrounded and trapped by the ordeals of her married life, which mark her even in death. [1]

Q11. (2 marks) Answer: art expresses the suppressed self and outlives the artist.
Art lets Aunt Jennifer express what she cannot say or live; [1] and it outlives her: the tigers will go on prancing, proud and unafraid, after she is dead. [1]

Q12. (2 marks) Answer: fluttering fingers, heavy needle, terrified hands.
Her fingers flutter nervously through the wool and she finds even the ivory needle hard to pull; [1] her hands are called terrified, and the weight of the wedding band presses on her. [1]

Q13. (5 marks) Answer: fearless tigers v. fearful aunt; marriage as burden; art outlives.
Value points [5]: Aunt Jennifer embroiders bright topaz tigers that prance in a world of green, fearless of the men beneath the tree; she herself is timid — her fingers flutter, the ivory needle is hard to pull, and the massive weight of Uncle's wedding band presses on her; her marriage has mastered her, and even in death her terrified hands will lie ringed with ordeals; the tigers express her longing for freedom and courage; they will outlive her, proud and unafraid; the poem comments on the oppression of women in a male-dominated society and on art as a means of expression and survival.
OR Value points [5]: the tigers — symbols of strength, freedom, confidence and the spirit she suppresses; the men beneath the tree — male authority, which the tigers do not fear; the wedding band — marriage and its heavy constraints; 'ringed' — the ring and the circle of ordeals; the needle and the wool — her art and her labour; the contrast of symbols conveys the theme of oppression and the liberating power of art.

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