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Deep Water — 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: Deep Water (Flamingo) · **Topics:** The YMCA pool incident · Fear and its effects · Training with the instructor · Conquering fear

SECTION A

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

1. Why had the narrator chosen the YMCA pool to learn swimming? 1

(A) His friends swam there every day.

(B) It was safe, unlike the treacherous Yakima River that his mother warned him about.

(C) It was the only pool in California.

(D) An instructor there taught for free.

2. The narrator's dislike of water began when, at the age of three or four, 1

(A) he fell into a well

(B) he was tossed into a pool by a bigger boy

(C) a wave knocked him down and swept over him on a California beach

(D) he nearly drowned in the Yakima River

3. The boy who threw the narrator into the deep end of the pool was 1

(A) a big bruiser of a boy, probably about eighteen

(B) the narrator's own instructor

(C) a boy of the narrator's age

(D) the lifeguard of the pool

4. What was the narrator's plan when he first went down in the deep water? 1

(A) To shout for help at once

(B) To float on his back

(C) To swim to the side under water

(D) To make a big jump from the bottom and come up like a cork

5. How old was the narrator when he was thrown into the deep end of the YMCA pool? 1

(A) Seven or eight

(B) Ten or eleven

(C) Fifteen

(D) Eighteen

6. Where did the narrator finally test whether his terror of water had gone? 1

(A) In the YMCA pool

(B) In the Yakima River

(C) At Lake Wentworth in New Hampshire, and then at Warm Lake

(D) In the Pacific Ocean

7. What did the narrator feel at the very end of his near-drowning? 1

(A) Peace and drowsiness, with no more panic, before he lost consciousness

(B) Sharp pain in his chest

(C) Anger at the boy who had thrown him

(D) Hope that the lifeguard would come

8. The narrator understood the meaning of Roosevelt's words that all we have to fear is fear itself because 1

(A) he had read about Roosevelt's life

(B) he had experienced both the sensation of dying and the terror that fear produces, and had conquered it

(C) his instructor repeated them often

(D) he lost all interest in swimming

SECTION B

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

9. What were the effects of the near-drowning on the narrator's life afterwards? (40–50 words) 2

10. Describe the situation at the pool just before the big boy threw the narrator in. (40–50 words) 2

11. How did the instructor use the rope and pulley to train the narrator? (40–50 words) 2

12. What does the narrator mean by saying that the will to live grew stronger in him after the experience? (40–50 words) 2

SECTION C

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

13. (a) How did William Douglas overcome his fear of water? What lesson does his experience teach us? (120–150 words) 5

OR

(b) Describe the narrator's experience of nearly drowning in the YMCA pool, and the feelings he went through. (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)	(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). The Yakima River was treacherous and his mother kept warning him against it; the YMCA pool was safe.

Q2. Answer (C). On a beach in California a wave knocked him down and buried him; it left him with a fear of water.

Q3. Answer (A). A big bruiser of a boy, probably eighteen, picked him up and tossed him into the nine-foot deep end.

Q4. Answer (D). He planned to spring up from the bottom, but he came up slowly and his plan failed.

Q5. Answer (B). The misadventure happened when he was ten or eleven years old; the boy who threw him in was about eighteen.

Q6. Answer (C). He swam two miles across Lake Wentworth to Stamp Act Island, and then swam across Warm Lake and back.

Q7. Answer (A). All effort ceased; he felt calm and drowsy and crossed to oblivion. He came to lying beside the pool, vomiting.

Q8. Answer (B). Having known the terror and conquered it, he felt released from fear — and the will to live grew stronger.

Q9. (2 marks) Answer: lasting fear; it spoilt his enjoyment of water sports.
A haunting fear of water stayed with him for years; [1] it ruined fishing trips, canoeing, boating and swimming for him, and he avoided water whenever he could. [1]

Q10. (2 marks) Answer: alone, waiting; mocked and thrown in by a big boy.
The narrator had gone to the pool when no one else was there and sat on the side, waiting for others to come. [1] A big boy of about eighteen came in, mocked his thin build, asked whether he would like to be ducked, picked him up and tossed him into the deep end. [1]

Q11. (2 marks) Answer: a rope and pulley held him while he learnt breathing, kicking and strokes.
A belt round the narrator was attached to a rope that ran through a pulley on an overhead cable; the instructor held the rope and moved him back and forth across the pool, [1] an hour a day, five days a week, teaching him to breathe, kick and use his arms, one part at a time. [1]

Q12. (2 marks) Answer: facing death made him value life and conquer fear.
Having faced death and overcome fear, he learnt the value of life; [1] the experience made him confident and gave him a greater determination to face all fears and live fully. [1]

Q13. (5 marks) Answer: will power, training and practice; fear itself is the thing to fear.
Value points [5]: the fear began at three or four on a California beach and was made worse when a big boy threw him into the deep end of the YMCA pool; he nearly drowned, and the fear spoilt water sports for years; he decided to get an instructor, who trained him with a rope, belt and pulley, five days a week for months, building a swimmer piece by piece; traces of terror remained, so he tested himself in Lake Wentworth and Warm Lake until fear fled; lesson: fear can be conquered by will, courage and persistent effort; as Roosevelt said, all we have to fear is fear itself; facing fear makes the will to live stronger.
OR Value points [5]: he sat at the edge of the pool when an eighteen-year-old bruiser tossed him into the nine-foot deep end; he swallowed water and went down; he planned to spring up from the bottom but came up slowly; he went down three times, seeing a yellowish glow of water; terror gripped him, his legs were paralysed and he tried to shout; at last all effort stopped and a curtain of peace and drowsiness came over him; he crossed into oblivion and came to lying beside the pool, vomiting; the experience left him with a deep fear of water.

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