Master Testing Agency
Practice papers, exam-standard · www.mastertestingagency.com

Journey to the End of the Earth — 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.

All questions are original and © Master Testing Agency. Free to download and use for personal practice; not for resale. Master Testing Agency is an independent test-prep publisher, not affiliated with, endorsed by or connected to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) or any other exam-conducting body.

Chapter: Journey to the End of the Earth (Vistas) · **Topics:** The voyage to Antarctica · Gondwana and the Earth's past · Phytoplankton and the food chain · Global warming and Students on Ice

SECTION A

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

1. The author travelled to Antarctica aboard 1

(A) an Indian naval ship

(B) the Russian research vessel Akademik Shokalskiy

(C) a cruise liner from Madras

(D) an aircraft

2. Antarctica was once a part of 1

(A) Asia

(B) the Arctic

(C) Gondwana, the southern supercontinent

(D) South America only

3. What percentage of the Earth's total ice volume is held in Antarctica? 1

(A) 90 per cent

(B) 50 per cent

(C) 25 per cent

(D) 10 per cent

4. The Students on Ice programme, led by Geoff Green, aims to 1

(A) train students as sailors

(B) conduct mining research

(C) take tourists on holidays

(D) take high-school students to the ends of the world, to inspire them to understand and protect the planet

5. Phytoplankton are important because they 1

(A) melt the ice

(B) are the grasses of the sea that sustain the entire Southern Ocean food chain

(C) are a kind of penguin

(D) pollute the sea

6. Why is Antarctica a good place to study the Earth's past, present and future? 1

(A) It has many cities.

(B) It is easy to reach.

(C) Its ice holds a record of the Earth's history, and it is very sensitive to climate change.

(D) It has the hottest deserts.

7. The journey from Madras to Antarctica crossed 1

(A) nine time zones, six checkpoints and three bodies of water

(B) two time zones and one ocean

(C) twelve countries

(D) four continents only

8. The chapter mainly warns us about 1

(A) the dangers of sailing

(B) the cold of Antarctica

(C) the loss of penguins only

(D) global warming and the impact of human activity on the planet

SECTION B

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

9. What does the author want to show by pointing out that human civilisations have existed for only about 12,000 years? (40–50 words) 2

10. How does the Students on Ice programme help the planet? (40–50 words) 2

11. Why does the author call phytoplankton the grasses of the sea? (40–50 words) 2

12. What does the author mean by saying that Antarctica is a place where small changes can have big effects? (40–50 words) 2

SECTION C

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

13. (a) Journey to the End of the Earth is a warning to mankind about global warming. Discuss. (120–150 words) 5

OR

(b) How does a visit to Antarctica change the way young people look at the Earth? (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 sailed on the Russian research vessel Akademik Shokalskiy.

Q2. Answer (C). Gondwana was the giant southern supercontinent that later broke into today's continents.

Q3. Answer (A). Antarctica holds 90 per cent of the Earth's ice.

Q4. Answer (D). Young people who see Antarctica at first hand will care about the Earth's future.

Q5. Answer (B). These single-celled plants feed the whole marine food chain and use the sun's energy.

Q6. Answer (C). Its untouched ice and simple ecosystem make the effects of change easy to see.

Q7. Answer (A). The author describes crossing nine time zones, six checkpoints and three bodies of water.

Q8. Answer (D). Melting ice and changes in small organisms are signs of what humans are doing to the Earth.

Q9. (2 marks) Answer: humans are newcomers, yet have changed the planet greatly.
Compared with the hundreds of millions of years of the Earth's history recorded in Antarctica, humans are newcomers. [1] Yet in this very short time they have changed the planet greatly, with cities, the burning of fossil fuels and global warming, which threatens the Earth's future. [1]

Q10. (2 marks) Answer: first-hand experience inspires young people to protect the Earth.
It takes high-school students to Antarctica so that they see the effects of global warming at first hand; [1] the young people who will shape the future are inspired to understand and protect the Earth. [1]

Q11. (2 marks) Answer: base of the marine food chain.
Like grass on land, these tiny single-celled plants are the base of the food chain; [1] they use the sun's energy to make food and support the whole marine life of the Southern Ocean. [1]

Q12. (2 marks) Answer: sensitive ecosystem; chain reaction.
Its ecosystem is simple and very sensitive, [1] so a small change — like a slight warming or a decline in phytoplankton — can affect the whole food chain and the global climate. [1]

Q13. (5 marks) Answer: Antarctica's importance; fragile ecosystem; melting ice; education of the young.
Value points [5]: the author's voyage on the Akademik Shokalskiy to Antarctica, which holds 90 per cent of the Earth's ice; Antarctica's history as part of Gondwana and its role as a record of the Earth's past; the sensitivity of its ecosystem — small changes like the decline of phytoplankton could affect the whole food chain; melting ice could raise sea levels and change the climate; the Students on Ice programme under Geoff Green inspires the young to protect the planet; the message: human activity threatens the Earth, and we must act now.
OR Value points [5]: seeing the vast ice, the wildlife and the changing environment at first hand is more powerful than reading about it; students learn about Gondwana and the Earth's history, the importance of phytoplankton and the food chain, and the effects of global warming; Geoff Green's Students on Ice programme rests on this belief; the young realise their responsibility and are inspired to act for the planet's future.

All questions are original and © Master Testing Agency. Free to download and use for personal practice; not for resale. Every fact in this paper was checked against the NCERT chapter. No passage of the copyright text is reproduced.