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Keeping Quiet — 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: Keeping Quiet (Flamingo) · **Topics:** Silence and introspection · Togetherness · War and nature · The lesson of the earth

SECTION A

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

1. In Keeping Quiet, the poet asks us to count up to 1

(A) ten (B) twelve

(C) a hundred (D) sixty

2. Why does the poet want us not to speak in any language for a while? 1

(A) Because languages cause confusion (B) Because he dislikes noise

(C) So that, in silence, all people feel together, without the divisions language creates (D) So that we can learn a new language

3. According to the poet, during the moment of stillness the fishermen would 1

(A) not harm the whales (B) catch more fish

(C) go home early (D) sell their boats

4. The man gathering salt would look at his hurt hands. This suggests that 1

(A) salt is valuable (B) he would buy gloves

(C) he wants to change his work (D) in a moment of quiet, man would notice the suffering his toil brings to himself

5. Keeping Quiet was written by 1

(A) Pablo Neruda (B) Robert Frost

(C) John Keats (D) Kamala Das

6. Keeping Quiet was originally written in 1

(A) English (B) Spanish

(C) French (D) Portuguese

7. The poet criticises wars with gas and fire, and a victory with 1

(A) many prisoners (B) flags and parades

(C) no survivors (D) great wealth

8. The main message of Keeping Quiet is that 1

(A) we should give up our work (B) silence is boring

(C) we should stop talking to others (D) a moment of quiet introspection can bring peace, togetherness and understanding

SECTION B

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

9. Why does the poet want us to keep quiet and still for some time? (40–50 words) 2

10. What does the poet mean by an exotic moment of togetherness? (40–50 words) 2

11. Why does the poet say that the stillness is not total inactivity? (40–50 words) 2

12. How can the earth teach us a lesson, according to 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) How can silence and introspection help humanity, according to Keeping Quiet? (120–150 words) 5

OR

(b) Keeping Quiet is a plea against war and the destruction of nature. Discuss. (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)	(B)	(C)	(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). Twelve suggests the twelve hours of a clock or the twelve months — a full cycle of time.

Q2. Answer (C). Silence removes the barriers of language and lets humanity share a moment of togetherness.

Q3. Answer (A). In stillness, man would stop harming nature — the fishermen would spare the whales.

Q4. Answer (D). Pausing, we become aware of our own pain and of our self-destructive haste.

Q5. Answer (A). Pablo Neruda, the Chilean poet; the poem in the textbook is an English translation.

Q6. Answer (B). Neruda wrote in Spanish; the textbook gives an English translation by Alastair Reid.

Q7. Answer (C). Modern wars can destroy everything — a victory over a dead world is meaningless.

Q8. Answer (D). Introspection can end violence, war and the destruction of nature, and bring human beings together.

Q9. (2 marks) Answer: for introspection, peace and togetherness.
Constant activity and haste make people self-centred, violent and destructive; [1] a moment of silence would let us look within, understand ourselves and others, and bring peace and a sense of togetherness. [1]

Q10. (2 marks) Answer: a rare shared silence uniting all.
It is an unusual, rare moment when all people would be still together, without the barriers of language, race or activity; [1] in that shared silence, people would feel their common humanity. [1]

Q11. (2 marks) Answer: pause for reflection, not death or idleness.
He does not want people to become idle or to stop living; [1] he wants a pause for reflection — inactivity would mean death, while his stillness leads to renewal of life. [1]

Q12. (2 marks) Answer: apparent death leads to new life.
The earth seems dead in winter, but life returns in spring; [1] similarly, a period of silence that looks like inactivity can renew us, so we need not fear stillness. [1]

Q13. (5 marks) Answer: introspection, togetherness, peace, care for nature.
Value points [5]: the poet asks us to count to twelve and keep still, without language or movement; this would create an exotic moment of togetherness; fishermen would spare the whales, the salt gatherer would see his hurt hands — man would stop harming nature and himself; those who wage wars with gas and fire would join their brothers in the shade; the stillness is not total inactivity but introspection; as the earth shows, what seems dead can come alive; silence can end violence, war and loneliness and bring peace.
OR Value points [5]: the poet condemns wars with gas and fire and a victory with no survivors; he imagines warriors in clean clothes walking with their brothers in the shade; he wants the fishermen to stop harming whales and the salt gatherer to notice his wounds; man's haste and greed destroy nature and himself; a quiet pause for introspection could stop this; the earth's cycle of renewal gives hope; the poem is a call for peace, brotherhood and harmony with nature.

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