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Memories of Childhood — 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: Memories of Childhood (Vistas) · **Topics:** The Cutting of My Long Hair · We Too are Human Beings · Discrimination and resistance · Education and dignity

SECTION A

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

1. What happened to Zitkala-Sa at her first breakfast at the school in the land of apples? 1

(A) She was given no food.

(B) She sat down when the first bell rang, found she was the only one seated, and felt embarrassed.

(C) She was praised by the teacher.

(D) She refused to eat.

2. Who warned Zitkala-Sa that the girls' long hair was going to be cut? 1

(A) Her mother

(B) A paleface woman

(C) Judewin, who knew a few words of English

(D) Bama

3. According to Zitkala-Sa's mother, shingled (short) hair was worn by 1

(A) cowards — unskilled warriors captured by the enemy

(B) brave warriors

(C) mourners only

(D) the elders of the tribe

4. What did Zitkala-Sa do to avoid having her hair cut? 1

(A) She ran away to her home.

(B) She agreed quietly.

(C) She asked Judewin to cut it.

(D) She hid under a bed in a large room, but was dragged out and tied to a chair.

5. Why did Bama take half an hour to an hour to walk home from school? 1

(A) The road was long and dangerous.

(B) She stopped to watch the sights — a performing monkey, a snake charmer, a cyclist pedalling for days.

(C) She went to the temple.

(D) She helped her mother in the fields.

6. What did Bama see that first made her aware of untouchability? 1

(A) A teacher scolding a pupil

(B) A fight in the market

(C) An elder of her community carrying a packet of snacks to the landlord by its string, so as not to touch it

(D) A cyclist being stopped

7. What advice did Bama's elder brother Annan give her? 1

(A) To study hard and make progress, so that people would come to her with respect

(B) To leave the village

(C) To fight the landlord

(D) To give up school and work

8. What is common to both accounts in Memories of Childhood? 1

(A) Both are about life in big cities.

(B) Both are about sports.

(C) Both describe a happy school life.

(D) Both describe the injustice and humiliation faced by marginalised communities, and the child's spirit of resistance.

SECTION B

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

9. Why was the cutting of her hair so painful for Zitkala-Sa? (40–50 words) 2

10. Why did Bama at first find the elder's way of carrying the snacks funny? (40–50 words) 2

11. How did Annan's words influence Bama? (40–50 words) 2

12. What does the title Karukku signify? (40–50 words) 2

SECTION C

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

13. (a) Both Zitkala-Sa and Bama are victims of discrimination who resist in their own ways. Compare their experiences. (120–150 words) 5

OR

(b) Memories of Childhood shows how a child's innocence is lost when it meets injustice. 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)	(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). Not knowing the rules of eating by formula, she was the odd one out and, watched by all, began to cry.

Q2. Answer (C). Judewin had overheard the paleface woman's plan.

Q3. Answer (A). Her mother taught that only captured, unskilled warriors had their hair shingled by the enemy.

Q4. Answer (D). She resisted to the end; when her braids were cut she felt she had lost her spirit.

Q5. Answer (B). The street was full of novelties that delighted the child.

Q6. Answer (C). At first she found it funny; later she understood the humiliation behind it.

Q7. Answer (A). Education was the way to win dignity; she studied hard and stood first in her class.

Q8. Answer (D). Zitkala-Sa faces racial and cultural oppression; Bama faces caste discrimination; both resist.

Q9. (2 marks) Answer: cultural humiliation; loss of identity.
In her culture, long hair was a matter of pride; only captured, unskilled warriors — cowards — had their hair shingled by the enemy; [1] having her braids cut against her will was a humiliation that stripped her of her identity, and she felt she had lost her spirit. [1]

Q10. (2 marks) Answer: a child's innocence; did not know about caste.
As a child she did not understand caste; [1] the sight of a big man holding a small packet by its string, without touching it, and bowing to the landlord looked comic to her — until Annan explained its meaning. [1]

Q11. (2 marks) Answer: education as the way to dignity; she stood first.
He told her that people of their community are born into a community denied honour and dignity, but that education could earn them respect; [1] she took his words to heart, studied hard and stood first in her class. [1]

Q12. (2 marks) Answer: serrated palmyra leaves; pain and resistance.
Karukku means palmyra leaves, which have serrated edges on both sides, like double-edged swords; [1] the title suggests the sharp pain of caste oppression and also the cutting edge of resistance. [1]

Q13. (5 marks) Answer: racial oppression and caste discrimination; protest and education.
Value points [5]: Zitkala-Sa, a Native American girl in the land of apples, faces cultural and racial oppression — the strange rules, eating by formula, and the forced cutting of her long hair, a sign of cowardice in her culture; she resists by hiding under a bed, but is dragged out, tied to a chair and loses her spirit; Bama, a Tamil Dalit child, sees an elder carry snacks to the landlord by a string and learns from Annan about untouchability; she resists by studying hard and standing first in class; both accounts show the pain of discrimination and the spirit of resistance — one through protest, the other through education.
OR Value points [5]: Zitkala-Sa begins with a child's confusion at the school's rules and ends in humiliation when her hair is cut and she feels she has lost her spirit; Bama begins by enjoying the sights of the street and laughing at the elder's comic behaviour; Annan's explanation makes her angry and aware; both lose their innocence on facing oppression, but both find strength — resistance and education; the accounts are autobiographical and reflect the experiences of marginalised communities.

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