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On the Face of It — 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: On the Face of It (Vistas) · **Topics:** Derry · Mr Lamb · Disability and society · Change in Derry

SECTION A

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

1. How did Derry's face get burnt? 1

(A) In a fire at home
(B) By acid
(C) In a road accident
(D) In a war

2. Mr Lamb's physical disability is 1

(A) blindness
(B) a burnt face
(C) a tin leg, from an injury in the war
(D) deafness

3. Why does Mr Lamb keep his garden gate open? 1

(A) Because he welcomes anyone who wants to come in; he likes company
(B) Because the gate is broken
(C) To let his bees out
(D) To catch thieves

4. What did Derry overhear a stranger say about his face? 1

(A) That it would heal soon
(B) That he was handsome
(C) That he should wear a mask
(D) That only a mother could love such a face

5. What does Mr Lamb ask Derry to help him with? 1

(A) Feeding the bees
(B) Picking crab apples to make jelly
(C) Painting the house
(D) Mending the fence

6. Mr Lamb's attitude to his disability is that 1

(A) he hides from people
(B) he is bitter and angry
(C) he accepts it calmly and lives a full, positive life
(D) he blames the world

7. Why does Derry decide to go back to Mr Lamb's garden despite his mother's objection? 1

(A) Mr Lamb's acceptance and wisdom had given him confidence and a reason to live
(B) He wanted to take crab apples
(C) He wanted to hide from school
(D) His father asked him to

8. How does the play end? 1

(A) Derry runs away and never returns.
(B) Mr Lamb sends Derry away.
(C) Derry's mother visits the garden.
(D) Derry returns to find Mr Lamb fallen at the foot of the ladder, and kneels beside him.

SECTION B

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

9. Why did Derry climb into Mr Lamb's garden? (40–50 words) 2

10. How is Mr Lamb different from other people Derry has met? (40–50 words) 2

11. Why does Mr Lamb question the difference between a weed and a flower? (40–50 words) 2

12. Why did Derry's mother not want him to go to Mr Lamb's house? (40–50 words) 2

SECTION C

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

13. (a) Discuss the influence of Mr Lamb on Derry in On the Face of It. (120–150 words) 5

OR

(b) On the Face of It shows how people with disabilities are treated by society. Discuss with reference to Derry and Mr Lamb. (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). One side of Derry's face had been burnt by acid.

Q2. Answer (C). He lost his leg in the war and walks with a tin leg.

Q3. Answer (A). His open gate is a sign of his openness to people, though few come.

Q4. Answer (D). The cruel remark of a woman at a bus stop wounded Derry deeply.

Q5. Answer (B). He invites Derry to help pick crab apples for jelly — giving him a sense of being useful.

Q6. Answer (C). He jokes about it, keeps busy and welcomes life; he teaches Derry that what is inside matters.

Q7. Answer (A). For the first time someone had treated him as normal and valuable.

Q8. Answer (D). Mr Lamb has fallen from the ladder; the play does not say whether he is dead.

Q9. (2 marks) Answer: thought it empty; liked what he saw.
He thought the garden was empty, [1] and he liked what he saw over the wall, so he climbed in — not knowing that Mr Lamb was there. [1]

Q10. (2 marks) Answer: no pity or fear; treats him as normal.
Other people stared at Derry, pitied him or were afraid of his face; [1] Mr Lamb did not react to his face at all, spoke to him as a normal person and encouraged him to look at life positively. [1]

Q11. (2 marks) Answer: all growing things are life; labels judge unfairly.
He asks why one green, growing plant is called a weed and another a flower; [1] for him all growing things are life and have equal worth — just as people who look different, like him and Derry, are as worthy as anyone. [1]

Q12. (2 marks) Answer: distrust of Mr Lamb; over-protective.
She had been warned about Mr Lamb and did not trust him; [1] she was over-protective of Derry and did not want him to be hurt again. [1]

Q13. (5 marks) Answer: from bitterness to hope; acceptance; usefulness.
Value points [5]: Derry, a fourteen-year-old with an acid-burnt face, is bitter, withdrawn and hurt by people's remarks, like the stranger's that only a mother could love his face; Mr Lamb, with his tin leg, does not pity him; he talks of crab apples and bees, asks why one plant is a weed and another a flower, and speaks of how what is inside a person matters; he asks Derry to help pick crab apples for jelly, making him feel useful and normal; Derry gains confidence, defies his mother to return, and finds Mr Lamb fallen at the foot of the ladder; the meeting changes Derry from self-pity to hope — Mr Lamb's wisdom helps him face the world.
OR Value points [5]: Derry is stared at, pitied or avoided; a stranger says only a mother could love his face; even his mother's love is over-protective; Mr Lamb is mocked by children as Lamey-Lamb, and lives alone though his gate is always open; society judges by appearance and isolates the different; both characters suffer loneliness; the play asks for acceptance and empathy, and shows that inner strength matters more than appearance.

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