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The Interview — 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: The Interview (Flamingo) · **Topics:** Views on the interview (Part I) · Umberto Eco (Part II) · The Name of the Rose · Interstices and productivity

SECTION A

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

1. Part I of The Interview is taken from the introduction to a book of interviews by 1

(A) Umberto Eco
(B) Christopher Silvester
(C) Mukund Padmanabhan
(D) Rudyard Kipling

2. Which writer is said to have had a horror of the interviewer and never consented to be interviewed? 1

(A) H.G. Wells
(B) Rudyard Kipling
(C) Lewis Carroll
(D) Umberto Eco

3. Rudyard Kipling's view of the interview was that it was 1

(A) immoral, a crime, an offence against the person
(B) a useful means of communication
(C) a good source of income
(D) an art form

4. The diary of Kipling's wife Caroline records that their day was wrecked by 1

(A) a quarrel with their publisher
(B) a storm in Boston
(C) a visit from H.G. Wells
(D) two reporters from Boston

5. Umberto Eco says that he is able to do so much work because he uses the 'interstices', which are 1

(A) his assistants
(B) the empty spaces of time between other activities
(C) the holidays of the university
(D) late nights

6. How does Eco describe himself? 1

(A) As a novelist who teaches on Sundays
(B) As a journalist
(C) As a university professor who writes novels on Sundays
(D) As a full-time novelist

7. How many copies of The Name of the Rose had been sold, according to the interview? 1

(A) Between 10 and 15 million
(B) About 1 million
(C) About 50 million
(D) Fewer than 100,000

8. When the interviewer suggested that Eco had written more than 20 non-fiction books, Eco replied that he had written 1

(A) exactly 20
(B) fewer than 10
(C) none
(D) over 40

SECTION B

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

9. Why do some celebrities dislike being interviewed? (40–50 words) 2

10. What is the role of the interview in our times, according to Part I? (40–50 words) 2

11. Why does Eco think The Name of the Rose became so popular? (40–50 words) 2

12. How did Eco come to write novels? (40–50 words) 2

SECTION C

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

13. (a) Compare the views on the interview given in Part I with the experience of the interview in Part II. (120–150 words) 5

OR

(b) What picture of Umberto Eco as a person and as a writer emerges from the interview? (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). Part I is an extract from Christopher Silvester's introduction to an anthology of interviews.

Q2. Answer (C). Lewis Carroll had a horror of the interviewer.

Q3. Answer (A). Kipling called the interview immoral — a crime, an assault deserving punishment.

Q4. Answer (D). Caroline Kipling wrote that two reporters from Boston had wrecked their day.

Q5. Answer (B). He makes use of the empty spaces in life — for example the minutes while waiting for a lift to arrive.

Q6. Answer (C). He sees himself first as a philosopher and university professor; novels are his Sunday work.

Q7. Answer (A). The novel sold between 10 and 15 million copies.

Q8. Answer (D). Eco corrected him: over 40 scholarly, non-fiction works.

Q9. (2 marks) Answer: intrusion into privacy; feel diminished.
They feel the interview is an intrusion into their lives and privacy; [1] some, like Kipling, see it as immoral, a crime against the person, and others feel that interviews diminish them and take away a part of themselves. [1]

Q10. (2 marks) Answer: a serviceable medium; source of first impressions of celebrities.
The interview has become a commonplace of journalism and a very useful medium of communication; [1] much of what we know of the famous people of our time comes through interviews, and the interviewer holds great power and influence. [1]

Q11. (2 marks) Answer: a mystery; timing; readers also like serious books.
He says it is a mystery to him; [1] he thinks perhaps it would have failed had it been written ten years earlier or later — it was a serious, dense novel with theology and history, and readers do not always want only easy reading. [1]

Q12. (2 marks) Answer: by chance, at about 50; enjoys narration.
He was a scholar and philosopher; [1] he began writing novels almost by chance at about the age of 50, because he enjoyed telling stories, and his novel The Name of the Rose was published in 1980. [1]

Q13. (5 marks) Answer: two views in Part I; a respectful, informative interview in Part II.
Value points [5]: Part I presents both sides — the interview is a serviceable medium of communication and an art, yet many celebrities (Lewis Carroll, Kipling and others) feel it is an intrusion, even a crime, that diminishes them; Part II shows a good interview in practice: Mukund Padmanabhan's well-prepared, polite questions draw out Umberto Eco's ideas on his work — interstices, writing novels on Sundays, the success of The Name of the Rose; Eco is relaxed and frank, so the interview informs and illuminates; the comparison shows that an interview is valuable when it respects the person and is well researched.
OR Value points [5]: a scholar and philosopher who considers himself a university professor who writes novels on Sundays; very productive, using every interstice of time; author of over 40 non-fiction works besides novels; he began fiction at about 50 out of the pleasure of narrating; modest about the huge success of The Name of the Rose; he writes academic work in a narrative style; witty, frank and good-humoured in conversation.

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