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The Rattrap — 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 Rattrap (Flamingo) · **Topics:** The rattrap metaphor · The crofter and the theft · Edla Willmansson · Redemption through kindness

SECTION A

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

1. The peddler got the material for his rattraps by 1

(A) buying it at the ironworks

(B) begging in stores and at big farms, and by petty thievery

(C) collecting scrap from the forest

(D) trading it for his traps

2. According to the peddler, the whole world is a rattrap because 1

(A) it offers riches, joys, shelter and food as bait, and once a person is tempted it closes in on him

(B) people in it are cruel to the poor

(C) rats are found everywhere

(D) nobody ever buys his traps

3. What did the old crofter do that made the peddler's theft especially mean? 1

(A) He refused to give the peddler food.

(B) He lent the peddler money for the journey.

(C) He welcomed him warmly, fed him, shared tobacco and trusted him with the sight of his savings.

(D) He gave the peddler a job at his farm.

4. Why did the ironmaster invite the peddler to his home? 1

(A) He wanted to hand him over to the sheriff.

(B) He felt sorry for all beggars.

(C) He wanted someone to work at the forge.

(D) He mistook him for an old regimental comrade, Captain von Stahle.

5. Why did the peddler at first refuse the ironmaster's invitation? 1

(A) He did not like Christmas celebrations.

(B) He was afraid that going to the manor would be like walking into a trap, as he had the stolen money.

(C) He wanted to return the money first.

(D) He did not trust the blacksmith.

6. Edla Willmansson persuaded the peddler to come because she 1

(A) noticed that he was afraid and treated him kindly

(B) knew he was Captain von Stahle

(C) wanted him to sell rattraps at the manor

(D) was sent by the sheriff

7. What did the peddler leave behind for Edla when he went away? 1

(A) Only a letter of apology

(B) A gift of wire rattraps for every guest

(C) A small rattrap as a Christmas present, the crofter's money, and a letter signed Captain von Stahle

(D) The ironmaster's clothes and nothing else

8. The main idea of The Rattrap is that 1

(A) the essential goodness in a human being can be awakened through understanding and love

(B) the poor can never change

(C) material wealth brings happiness

(D) crime always goes unpunished

SECTION B

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

9. Why was the peddler pleased with his comparison of the world to a rattrap? (40–50 words) 2

10. How did the ironmaster react when he found out, in daylight, that the guest was not Captain von Stahle? (40–50 words) 2

11. Why did Edla insist that the peddler stay for Christmas Eve? (40–50 words) 2

12. What made the peddler return the stolen money? (40–50 words) 2

SECTION C

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

13. (a) How does the metaphor of the rattrap run through the story, and how is the peddler himself caught in it and set free? (120–150 words) 5

OR

(b) Compare and contrast the characters of the ironmaster and his daughter Edla. (120–150 words)

END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

ANSWER KEY — SECTION A

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8
(B)	(A)	(C)	(D)	(B)	(A)	(C)	(A)

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). Business was poor, so he begged for the material and sometimes resorted to petty thievery.

Q2. Answer (A). Like cheese and pork in a trap, the world's good things are bait; whoever touches them is caught.

Q3. Answer (C). The lonely crofter treated him as a friend and showed him the thirty kronor in the pouch; the peddler then stole them.

Q4. Answer (D). In the dim light of the forge the ironmaster took him for Captain von Stahle and wanted to help an old friend.

Q5. Answer (B). He had the stolen thirty kronor on him; going to the manor house would be like throwing himself into the lion's den.

Q6. Answer (A). She saw his fear and spoke gently; her kindness made him trust her.

Q7. Answer (C). He asked that the money be returned to the crofter and wrote that, raised to a captain, he had got the power to free himself from the world's rattrap.

Q8. Answer (A). Edla's kindness and trust bring out the peddler's goodness, and he redeems himself.

Q9. (2 marks) Answer: the world had been unkind to him; thinking ill of it pleased him.
The world had never been kind to him, [1] so it gave him unusual joy to think ill of it in this way; the idea amused him as he thought of the people caught in the trap and those circling the bait. [1]

Q10. (2 marks) Answer: angry; told him to leave and spoke of the sheriff.
He was angry and felt cheated; [1] he wanted the peddler to leave at once and hinted that he would call the sheriff, though the peddler pointed out that the world is a rattrap and the ironmaster himself might be caught one day. [1]

Q11. (2 marks) Answer: compassion; Christmas spirit.
She felt it was not right to chase away a poor, homeless man whom they had invited themselves; [1] she wanted him to enjoy one day of peace and warmth at Christmas, the season of goodwill. [1]

Q12. (2 marks) Answer: Edla's kindness and respect awakened his conscience.
Edla's kindness: she treated him like a real captain even after his identity was known, [1] and her trust awakened the goodness in him; he wanted to be worthy of her respect and free himself from the trap of his own theft. [1]

Q13. (5 marks) Answer: the world as a rattrap; the theft traps him; kindness frees him.
Value points [5]: the peddler sells rattraps and thinks the world is a rattrap whose riches and comforts are bait; he takes the bait himself when he steals the crofter's thirty kronor and is caught — lost in the forest, he feels the trap has closed on him; at the manor, fear of discovery is another trap; Edla's kindness and Christmas hospitality give him a chance to escape; he leaves a rattrap as a present, returns the money, and writes that, raised to a captain, he got the power to free himself; the metaphor shows that greed traps people and that love and trust can free them.
OR Value points [5]: the ironmaster is impulsive, proud and generous to an old comrade, but his kindness depends on status — he invites the man as a captain and turns hostile on learning the truth, even mentioning the sheriff; Edla is observant, compassionate and gentle: she notices the man's fear, persuades him, and insists he stay for Christmas Eve even after the truth is known; her kindness is unconditional and it reforms the peddler; she is the true agent of change in the story, whereas her father is moved only later.

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