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The Third Level — 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 Third Level (Vistas) · **Topics:** The third level · Sam's explanation · Galesburg, 1894 · The first-day cover and Sam's letter

SECTION A

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

1. What does Charley claim to have found at Grand Central Station? 1

(A) A secret office

(B) A third level, though officially there are only two

(C) An old train to New York

(D) A hidden stamp shop

2. According to Sam, Charley's psychiatrist friend, the third level is 1

(A) a real place that only Charley can see

(B) a dream about trains

(C) a waking-dream wish fulfilment — an escape from the worries of the modern world

(D) a story Charley made up to fool his wife

3. What did Charley see on the third level that told him he was in the past? 1

(A) Gas lights, brass spittoons, old-fashioned clothes and a newspaper dated June 11, 1894

(B) Electric trains and neon lights

(C) Soldiers of the Second World War

(D) Cars and taxis outside

4. Where did Charley want to take his wife Louisa? 1

(A) To New York City

(B) To Chicago

(C) To London

(D) To Galesburg, Illinois, a peaceful town of 1894

5. How old was Charley, the narrator of The Third Level? 1

(A) Twenty-one

(B) Thirty-one

(C) Forty-one

(D) Fifty-one

6. What happened when Charley tried to find the third level again with old-style money? 1

(A) He found it at once.

(B) He bought the tickets.

(C) He never found it again.

(D) Louisa found it instead.

7. A 'first-day cover' is 1

(A) an envelope postmarked on the first day a stamp is issued

(B) the cover of a new book

(C) the first page of a newspaper

(D) a ticket for the first train of the day

8. What did Charley find in his grandfather's stamp collection that suggested Sam had reached the past? 1

(A) A photograph of Sam

(B) A railway ticket

(C) Sam's diary

(D) A first-day cover addressed to his grandfather, with a letter from Sam written in Galesburg

SECTION B

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

9. Why does Sam call Charley's experience a waking-dream wish fulfilment? (40–50 words) 2

10. Why did Charley want to go to Galesburg? (40–50 words) 2

11. What is the significance of the letter Sam wrote to Charley's grandfather? (40–50 words) 2

12. Why did Charley run away from the ticket counter? (40–50 words) 2

SECTION C

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

13. (a) The Third Level is a story about the modern man's desire to escape from the stress of life. Discuss. (120–150 words) 5

OR

(b) How does Jack Finney blend fantasy and reality in The Third Level? (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). Grand Central has two levels; Charley insists he found a third.

Q2. Answer (C). Sam explains it as wish fulfilment; even Charley's stamp collecting is called a temporary refuge from reality.

Q3. Answer (A). Everything belonged to 1894: the dress, the lights, the spittoons and The World newspaper.

Q4. Answer (D). Galesburg in 1894 stood for a peaceful world, with long summer evenings and no worries.

Q5. Answer (B). Charley tells us he is thirty-one years old, an ordinary man who stumbles on the third level.

Q6. Answer (C). He drew out 300 dollars, got less than 200 in old bills, but never found the corridor again.

Q7. Answer (A). Stamp collectors prize such envelopes; Charley's grandfather's collection had them.

Q8. Answer (D). The letter, postmarked 1894, showed that Sam had found the third level and gone to Galesburg.

Q9. (2 marks) Answer: escape from modern stress.
Modern life is full of insecurity, fear, war and worry, [1] and Charley wants to escape; so, according to Sam, his mind creates the third level as a way to the peaceful past — just as his stamp collecting is a refuge from reality. [1]

Q10. (2 marks) Answer: peace and simplicity of the past.
Galesburg in 1894 was a peaceful town with big frame houses, huge lawns, tall trees and long summer evenings; [1] people were not worried by war and insecurity, and he wanted to live there with Louisa. [1]

Q11. (2 marks) Answer: the sceptic escaped too; fantasy and reality blur.
It suggests that Sam, the psychiatrist who called the third level a wish fulfilment, had himself found it and escaped to 1894; [1] it blurs the line between reality and fantasy and shows that even Sam wanted to escape. [1]

Q12. (2 marks) Answer: fear of being caught with strange money.
The clerk looked at his money and said it was not valid, accusing him of trying something; [1] Charley feared he would be arrested, so he turned and ran. [1]

Q13. (5 marks) Answer: escape from anxiety; the past as refuge; Sam's twist.
Value points [5]: Charley, 31, finds a third level at Grand Central Station and sees 1894 - gas lights, spittoons, a newspaper of June 11, 1894; Sam explains it as a waking-dream wish fulfilment — an escape from war, insecurity and worry; Charley's stamp collecting is another refuge; he longs for peaceful Galesburg with Louisa; the clerk rejects his money and he never finds the level again; the twist — Sam's letter from Galesburg — shows that even the psychiatrist wanted to escape; the story shows modern man's anxiety and the yearning for a simpler past, blending reality and fantasy.
OR Value points [5]: real setting — Grand Central Station, Charley's job, his wife Louisa, his psychiatrist friend; fantasy — a third level that leads to 1894; realistic details make the fantasy convincing: the newspaper The World, the brass spittoons, the old currency; Sam's rational explanation pulls us back to reality; the first-day cover and Sam's letter bring fantasy into the real world; the reader is left unsure, which is the charm of the story.

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