
UNIT TEST — ENGLISH (Standard 10)

Chapters: A Letter to God | Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom

Poems: Dust of Snow | Fire and Ice

Time: 1½ Hours Maximum Marks: 40

General Instructions: All questions are compulsory. Internal options are given. Figures to the right indicate full marks. Write neatly and in the given order.

SECTION – A (Reading Skills) Marks: 10

1. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below: [4]

Lencho was a hard-working farmer who lived with his family on the crest of a low hill. His fields of ripe corn stretched across the valley, promising a fine harvest. All morning he had studied the sky, longing for a good downpour. When the rain at last arrived he was delighted — but soon the drops turned into large hailstones that came crashing down like coins from the heavens. Within an hour the storm had flattened his entire crop, leaving the fields as bare as if they had been burnt. Yet Lencho did not lose heart, for one hope still burned within him — his deep and simple faith in God.

- (a) Where did Lencho live with his family?
- (b) What had Lencho been longing for all morning?
- (c) What turned the welcome rain into a disaster?
- (d) What was the one hope that remained in Lencho's heart?

2. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below: [3]

On a bright autumn day, thousands of people gathered to witness a historic ceremony. For the very first time, a leader who had spent long years behind bars was taking the oath as the head of a free nation. Standing before the vast crowd, he spoke of the suffering his people had endured under years of injustice. True freedom, he said, meant respecting the rights and dignity of every human being. No one, he believed, is born hating another because of the colour of his skin; hatred is learned — and if hatred can be taught, then love and kindness can be taught too.

- (a) What historic event had gathered the crowd together?
- (b) According to the leader, what does true freedom mean?
- (c) What did the leader say about hatred?

3. Answer the following questions based on the poems: [3]

- (a) In 'Dust of Snow', name the bird and the tree the poet mentions.
- (b) In 'Fire and Ice', what do 'fire' and 'ice' stand for?
- (c) Who is the poet of both 'Dust of Snow' and 'Fire and Ice'?

SECTION – B (Literature) Marks: 15

4. Answer any THREE of the following questions in about 5–6 sentences each: [6]

- (a) Why did Lencho write a letter to God, and what did he ask for in it?
- (b) Why did the postmaster sign the letter as 'God'? What does this tell us about him?
- (c) What, according to Nelson Mandela, are the twin obligations of every person in life?
- (d) Describe Mandela's feelings and thoughts on the day of his inauguration.
- (e) 'Dust of Snow' shows how small things can change our mood. Explain with reference to the poem.

5. Answer any THREE of the following questions in about 2–3 sentences each: [6]

- (a) Why did Lencho call the post-office employees 'a bunch of crooks'?

- (b) How did the post-office employees respond to Lencho's first letter?
- (c) Why does Mandela thank the freedom fighters who came before him?
- (d) What courage, according to Mandela, did he learn from brave men?
- (e) Why does the poet in 'Fire and Ice' say that ice too is 'great' for destruction?
- (f) How did the crow and the hemlock tree change the poet's day?

6. Answer any THREE of the following in one word or one sentence: [3]

- (a) What crop did Lencho grow in his fields?
- (b) How much money did Lencho ask God for?
- (c) Of which country did Nelson Mandela become the President?
- (d) With what does the poet compare 'desire' in 'Fire and Ice'?
- (e) In 'Dust of Snow', what did the falling snow save from being wasted?

SECTION – C (Writing Skills) Marks: 15

Attempt ALL the questions. For Q.9, attempt EITHER (A) OR (B).

7. You spent a day volunteering at an old-age home in your city. Write a DIARY ENTRY describing your experience and the feelings it left you with. [3]

8. Write a DIALOGUE (of about 6 exchanges) between a teacher and a student who is feeling nervous about the upcoming board examinations. [3]

9. Attempt **either (A) or (B)**: [3]

- (A) You are the owner of 'GreenLeaf Nursery', which sells indoor plants, seeds and gardening tools. Prepare an attractive ADVERTISEMENT for the same.

OR

- (B) Prepare a POSTER on the theme 'Save Water, Save Life' to spread awareness in your locality.

10. You are the Head Boy / Head Girl of your school. Write a NOTICE informing the students about an Inter-House Essay Writing Competition, with all necessary details. [3]

11. You are a reporter for 'The Daily Star'. Write a short REPORT on the Annual Sports Day recently celebrated at your school. [3]