

BOARD-PATTERN PRACTICE PAPER · CBSE CLASS 11

The Portrait of a Lady (Hornbill)

English · Chapter 1 · Matches current CBSE blueprint · Each question PYQ-sourced where indicated

DATE	TOTAL MARKS	DURATION	MARKING	TARGET
_____	30	60 min	As per board	≥ 24/30

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- All questions are compulsory.
- Section A: extract-based comprehension (reference-to-context), 5 marks. Section B: 3 short answers (2 marks each). Section C: 2 short answers (3 marks each). Section D: 2 long / value-based answers.
- Answer to the point; support every literature answer with evidence from the text.
- For character and value-based answers, write within the prescribed word limit and use a clear point-evidence-explanation structure.
- Reproduce names and phrases exactly: Khushwant Singh; Shirley Toulson; 'an expanse of pure white serenity'; 'the laboured ease of loss'.

Section A — Reference to Context (Extract-based, 5 marks)

5 MARKS · 12 MIN

- Q1.** Read the extract and answer the questions: 'She had a remarkably serene face. When we both had to take the long walk... she would say her prayers in a monotonous sing-song while she counted the beads of her rosary. As she could never learn whole prayers by heart, she would mumble them again and again... My grandmother was an expanse of pure white serenity breathing peace and contentment.' (a) Whom is the author describing, and what relationship does he share with her? (b) What does the phrase 'an expanse of pure white serenity' suggest about her? (c) What was she always doing as she walked, and what does it reveal about her? (d) Find a word from the extract that means 'dull / unchanging in tone'. [PYQ 2020 CBSE SQP] **[5 marks]**

Section B — Short Answer (2 marks each, 3 Qs)

6 MARKS · 12 MIN

- Q2.** Why could the grandmother not help the author with his studies once they moved to the city? [PYQ 2019 School Annual] **[2 marks]**
- Q3.** How did the sparrows mourn the grandmother's death? [PYQ 2018 CBSE SQP] **[2 marks]**
- Q4.** In 'A Photograph', what does the phrase 'terribly transient feet' mean? [PYQ 2020 CBSE SQP] **[2 marks]**

Section C — Short Answer (3 marks each, 2 Qs)

6 MARKS · 14 MIN

- Q5.** Describe the turning point at the grandmother's death and explain what it reveals. (about 40-50 words) [PYQ 2019 CBSE SQP] **[3 marks]**
- Q6.** How is the theme of transience and loss conveyed in 'A Photograph'? (about 40-50 words) [PYQ 2020 CBSE SQP] **[3 marks]**

Section D — Long / Value-based Answer (4-5 marks, 2 Qs)

13 MARKS · 22 MIN

- Q7.** Draw a character sketch of the author's grandmother with reference to incidents from the text. (about 120-150 words) [PYQ 2019 School Annual] **[6 marks]**
- Q8.** Value-based: 'The Portrait of a Lady' shows the value of faith, dignity and selfless love, and the cost of modern life to old bonds. Discuss the values and ideas the lesson teaches. (about 120-150 words) [PYQ 2020 CBSE SQP] **[7 marks]**

Marking scheme & model answers — see companion Answer Key PDF · all PYQs traceable to actual CBSE papers · readyforboards.com · +91 70330 05444