CBSE NCERT · Class 12 · English Core

English Core

ORIGINAL STUDY COMPANION
PADIKAM
CLASS 12 | ALL STREAMS
English Core
CBSE / NCERT core lessons | Academic year 2026-27
25 chapter lessons
Quick explanations, core points, exam practice and chapter-specific notation in one consistent format.
Padikam explanations are independently written. Official textbooks are used as the coverage map, chapter sequence and terminology reference.

Contents
01 Reading: Unseen Passage 14 Flamingo: Going Places
02 Reading: Case-Based Passage 15 Flamingo Poetry: My Mother at Sixty-Six
03 Writing: Notice 16 Flamingo Poetry: Keeping Quiet
04 Writing: Invitations and Replies 17 Flamingo Poetry: A Thing of Beauty
05 Writing: Formal Letters 18 Flamingo Poetry: A Roadside Stand
06 Writing: Article and Report 19 Flamingo Poetry: Aunt Jennifer's Tigers
07 Flamingo: The Last Lesson 20 Vistas: The Third Level
08 Flamingo: Lost Spring 21 Vistas: The Tiger King
09 Flamingo: Deep Water 22 Vistas: Journey to the End of the Earth
10 Flamingo: The Rattrap 23 Vistas: The Enemy
11 Flamingo: Indigo 24 Vistas: On the Face of It
12 Flamingo: Poets and Pancakes 25 Vistas: Memories of Childhood
13 Flamingo: The Interview
Study rhythm
Read the quick explanation, recall the core points aloud, then answer the prompts without looking back. Use the official textbook links for full prescribed readings, activities and diagrams.
Textbook and verification links
1. https://cbseacademic.nic.in/web_material/CurriculumMain27/SecPart2/English_core_SecP2_2026-27.pdf
2. https://ncert.nic.in/textbook.php
3. https://cbseacademic.nic.in/curriculum_2027.html

CHAPTER 01
Reading: Unseen Passage
Quick understanding
An unseen passage tests accurate comprehension, inference, organisation and vocabulary in context rather than memorised facts.
Core points Check your learning
Read the question stems before the second close Explain the central idea of Reading: reading. Unseen Passage in your own words.
Separate stated information from inference. Apply one idea from Reading: Unseen Passage to a textbook-style example or
Support each response with the relevant idea, not source.

copied excess.
One-line recall Read the question stems before the second close reading.
PADIKAM | CBSE NCERT CLASS 12 3

CHAPTER 02
Reading: Case-Based Passage
Quick understanding
Acase-based passage combines prose with a chart, table or other visual evidence that must be interpreted together.
Core points Check your learning
Check title, scale, unit and legend before reading Explain the central idea of Reading: values. Case-Based Passage in your own words.
Compare proportions as well as raw numbers. Apply one idea from Reading: Case-Based Passage to a textbook-style
Do not claim causation from a simple association.
example or source.
One-line recall Check title, scale, unit and legend before reading values.
PADIKAM | CBSE NCERT CLASS 12 4

CHAPTER 03
Writing: Notice
Quick understanding
Anotice gives a defined group essential event or instruction details in a compact official format.
Core points Check your learning
Include organisation, NOTICE, date, heading and Explain the central idea of Writing: Notice signature role. in your own words.
Answer what, who, when, where and action required. Apply one idea from Writing: Notice to a textbook-style example or source.
Keep language direct and within the word limit.
One-line recall Include organisation, NOTICE, date, heading and signature role.
PADIKAM | CBSE NCERT CLASS 12 5

CHAPTER 04
Writing: Invitations and Replies
Quick understanding
Invitations and replies match format, tone and required details to a formal card or an informal message.
Core points Check your learning
Aformal invitation is usually in the third person. Explain the central idea of Writing: Invitations and Replies in your own
Areply clearly accepts or declines and repeats the
words.
event reference.
Apply one idea from Writing: Invitations
Do not mix letter format with card format.
and Replies to a textbook-style example
or source.
One-line recall Aformal invitation is usually in the third person.
PADIKAM | CBSE NCERT CLASS 12 6

CHAPTER 05
Writing: Formal Letters
Quick understanding
Ajob application or letter to the editor presents a clear purpose, organised evidence and appropriate formal tone.

Core points Check your learning
Use complete sender, date, receiver and subject Explain the central idea of Writing:
details. Formal Letters in your own words.
A job application connects qualifications with the Apply one idea from Writing: Formal
advertised role. Letters to a textbook-style example or
source.
An editor letter states the issue, impact and realistic
suggestions.
One-line recall Use complete sender, date, receiver and subject details.
PADIKAM | CBSE NCERT CLASS 12 7

CHAPTER 06
Writing: Article and Report
Quick understanding
An article develops a viewpoint, while a report records a completed event or investigation with factual organisation.
Core points Check your learning
An article may reason and persuade. Explain the central idea of Writing: Article
and Report in your own words.
A report uses a headline, byline and objective event
sequence. Apply one idea from Writing: Article and
Report to a textbook-style example or
Both need a purposeful opening and a clear close.
source.
One-line recall An article may reason and persuade.
PADIKAM | CBSE NCERT CLASS 12 8

CHAPTER 07
Flamingo: The Last Lesson
Quick understanding
Alphonse Daudet shows how language becomes precious when political power suddenly forbids its public use.
Core points Check your learning
Franz's regret grows as the classroom changes Explain the central idea of Flamingo: The
meaning. Last Lesson in your own words.
M. Hamel joins discipline with devotion in his final Apply one idea from Flamingo: The Last
lesson. Lesson to a textbook-style example or
source.
Language represents memory, identity and
resistance.
Literary craft
First-person retrospective narrative
Situational irony
Symbolism of school and language
One-line recall Franz's regret grows as the classroom changes meaning.
PADIKAM | CBSE NCERT CLASS 12 9

CHAPTER 08
Flamingo: Lost Spring
Quick understanding
Anees Jung presents children whose energy and dreams are constrained by poverty, hazardous work and inherited inequality.
Core points Check your learning
Saheb's apparent freedom hides insecurity. Explain the central idea of Flamingo:
Lost Spring in your own words.

Mukesh’s ambition challenges the bangle-making
cycle. Apply one idea from Flamingo: Lost
Spring to a textbook-style example or
Observation and interview expose structures rather
source.
than blaming children.
Literary craft
Literary journalism
Contrast
Portraiture and recurring images
One-line recall Saheb’s apparent freedom hides insecurity.
PADIKAM | CBSE NCERT CLASS 12 10

CHAPTER 09
Flamingo: Deep Water
Quick understanding
William O. Douglas explains how disciplined practice replaced a paralysing fear of water with tested confidence.
Core points Check your learning
Atraumatic incident creates lasting fear. Explain the central idea of Flamingo:
Deep Water in your own words.
The instructor breaks swimming into repeatable
skills. Apply one idea from Flamingo: Deep
Water to a textbook-style example or
Douglas verifies recovery by facing real situations
source.
alone.
Literary craft
Autobiographical narrative
Sensory detail
Fear-to-mastery structure
One-line recall Atraumatic incident creates lasting fear.
PADIKAM | CBSE NCERT CLASS 12 11

CHAPTER 10
Flamingo: The Rattrap
Quick understanding
Selma Lagerlof uses a wandering peddler’s cynical metaphor to show how trust and dignity can enable moral change.
Core points Check your learning
The rattrap metaphor reflects the peddler’s Explain the central idea of Flamingo: The
worldview and temptation. Rattrap in your own words.
Mistaken identity gives him temporary comfort and Apply one idea from Flamingo: The
danger. Rattrap to a textbook-style example or
source.
Edla’s respectful treatment makes reform possible.
Literary craft
Frame-like moral tale
Extended metaphor
Irony and transformation
One-line recall The rattrap metaphor reflects the peddler’s worldview and temptation.
PADIKAM | CBSE NCERT CLASS 12 12

CHAPTER 11
Flamingo: Indigo

Quick understanding
Louis Fischer recounts how Gandhi combined inquiry, negotiation and civil resistance to challenge the indigo system in Champaran.
Core points Check your learning
Local testimony turns grievance into documented evidence.
Refusing the official order changes peasants' sense of fear.
The settlement matters as a step toward self-reliance, not only as money.
Explain the central idea of Flamingo: Indigo in your own words.
Apply one idea from Flamingo: Indigo to a textbook-style example or source.
Literary craft
Historical reportage
Chronological case study
Character through action
One-line recall Local testimony turns grievance into documented evidence.

CHAPTER 12
Flamingo: Poets and Pancakes
Quick understanding
Asokamitran recalls Gemini Studios with humour to reveal hierarchy, vanity, politics and misunderstanding inside cultural production.
Core points Check your learning
The makeup department embodies artificial transformation and workplace rank.
Subbu's generosity complicates easy judgement.
The visiting poet is understood only much later through reading.
Explain the central idea of Flamingo: Poets and Pancakes in your own words.
Apply one idea from Flamingo: Poets and Pancakes to a textbook-style example or source.
Literary craft
Memoir
Satire
Delayed recognition and anecdote
One-line recall The makeup department embodies artificial transformation and workplace rank.

CHAPTER 13
Flamingo: The Interview
Quick understanding
The chapter presents competing views of interviews and an interview with Umberto Eco about scholarship, fiction and productive use of time.
Core points Check your learning
Interviews can reveal a person or intrude on privacy.
Eco describes using small empty intervals for work.
His academic and fictional writing share intellectual concerns.
Explain the central idea of Flamingo: The Interview in your own words.
Apply one idea from Flamingo: The Interview to a textbook-style example or source.
Literary craft
Argument plus interview
Contrasting viewpoints
Question-and-answer form

One-line recall Interviews can reveal a person or intrude on privacy.
PADIKAM | CBSE NCERT CLASS 12 15

CHAPTER 14
Flamingo: Going Places
Quick understanding
A. R. Barton explores Sophie's fantasies and the emotional distance between aspiration, class reality and evidence.
Core points Check your learning
Sophie invents possibilities more easily than plans. Explain the central idea of Flamingo:
Going Places in your own words.
Jansie recognises their social constraints.
Apply one idea from Flamingo: Going
The imagined meeting with Danny Casey becomes a
Places to a textbook-style example or
refuge that cannot be verified.
source.
Literary craft
Third-person focalisation
Contrast
Fantasy versus reality
One-line recall Sophie invents possibilities more easily than plans.
PADIKAM | CBSE NCERT CLASS 12 16

CHAPTER 15
Flamingo Poetry: My Mother at Sixty-Six
Quick understanding
Kamala Das captures sudden fear of a mother's ageing while the daughter masks separation with an outward smile.
Core points Check your learning
The mother's pale stillness triggers childhood fear. Explain the central idea of Flamingo
Poetry: My Mother at Sixty-Six in your
Young trees and children contrast with age.
own words.
The repeated smile conceals pain rather than
Apply one idea from Flamingo Poetry:
removing it.
My Mother at Sixty-Six to a textbook-style
example or source.
Literary craft
Single flowing sentence
Simile
Visual contrast and repetition
One-line recall The mother's pale stillness triggers childhood fear.
PADIKAM | CBSE NCERT CLASS 12 17

CHAPTER 16
Flamingo Poetry: Keeping Quiet
Quick understanding
Pablo Neruda imagines a brief shared stillness that interrupts violence and allows reflection without demanding death or permanent inactivity.
Core points Check your learning
Counting creates a collective pause. Explain the central idea of Flamingo
Poetry: Keeping Quiet in your own
Silence is distinguished from lifelessness.

words.
Earth becomes a model of apparent stillness
Apply one idea from Flamingo Poetry:
followed by renewal.
Keeping Quiet to a textbook-style
example or source.
Literary craft
Free verse
Paradox
Inclusive voice and natural image
One-line recall Counting creates a collective pause.
PADIKAM | CBSE NCERT CLASS 12 18

CHAPTER 17
Flamingo Poetry: A Thing of Beauty
Quick understanding
John Keats argues that beautiful forms and memories provide continuing emotional shelter against despair.
Core points Check your learning
Beauty creates a lasting source of joy. Explain the central idea of Flamingo
Poetry: A Thing of Beauty in your own
Dark experience is acknowledged rather than
words.
denied.
Apply one idea from Flamingo Poetry: A
Nature and noble stories join an immortal flow of
Thing of Beauty to a textbook-style
inspiration.
example or source.
Literary craft
Romantic imagery
Metaphor
Enjambment and cumulative catalogue
One-line recall Beauty creates a lasting source of joy.
PADIKAM | CBSE NCERT CLASS 12 19

CHAPTER 18
Flamingo Poetry: A Roadside Stand
Quick understanding
Robert Frost examines the disappointed hopes of rural people placed beside a road travelled by indifferent wealth.
Core points Check your learning
The stand seeks economic participation, not charity. Explain the central idea of Flamingo
Poetry: A Roadside Stand in your own
Passing motorists notice inconvenience more than
words.
need.
Apply one idea from Flamingo Poetry: A
The speaker's sympathy is troubled by helplessness
Roadside Stand to a textbook-style
and paternalism.
example or source.
Literary craft
Narrative lyric
Irony

Contrasting diction and uneasy speaker
One-line recall The stand seeks economic participation, not charity.
PADIKAM | CBSE NCERT CLASS 12 20

CHAPTER 19
Flamingo Poetry: Aunt Jennifer's Tigers
Quick understanding
Adrienne Rich contrasts fearless embroidered tigers with a woman burdened by marriage and gendered domination.
Core points Check your learning
The tigers embody confidence and freedom. Explain the central idea of Flamingo Poetry: Aunt Jennifer's Tigers in your
The heavy wedding band symbolises oppression.
own words.
Art outlives the maker's suffering and preserves an
Apply one idea from Flamingo Poetry:
alternative vision.
Aunt Jennifer's Tigers to a textbook-style
example or source.
Literary craft
Symbolism
Visual contrast
Transferred weight and controlled rhyme
One-line recall The tigers embody confidence and freedom.
PADIKAM | CBSE NCERT CLASS 12 21

CHAPTER 20
Vistas: The Third Level
Quick understanding
Jack Finney blends fantasy and psychology as Charley searches for an imagined railway level that promises escape from modern anxiety.
Core points Check your learning
The third level resembles an idealised 1890s world. Explain the central idea of Vistas: The Third Level in your own words.
Sam's apparent letter keeps fantasy and reality
unresolved. Apply one idea from Vistas: The Third
Level to a textbook-style example or
Escapism can be comforting without solving present
source.
pressures.
Literary craft
First-person speculative fiction
Ambiguous ending
Time-travel motif
One-line recall The third level resembles an idealised 1890s world.
PADIKAM | CBSE NCERT CLASS 12 22

CHAPTER 21
Vistas: The Tiger King
Quick understanding
Kalki satirises royal arrogance, superstition and administrative obedience through a ruler obsessed with defeating prophecy.
Core points Check your learning
Fear of death controls the king's public policy. Explain the central idea of Vistas: The Tiger King in your own words.

Officials and hunters adapt truth to power.
Apply one idea from Vistas: The Tiger
The final wooden tiger completes the prophecy
King to a textbook-style example or
through irony.
source.
Literary craft
Political satire
Foreshadowing
Hyperbole and ironic reversal
One-line recall Fear of death controls the king's public policy.
PADIKAM | CBSE NCERT CLASS 12 23

CHAPTER 22
Vistas: Journey to the End of the Earth
Quick understanding
Tishani Doshi's Antarctic journey connects deep geological time, climate systems and the responsibility of young observers.
Core points Check your learning
Antarctica preserves evidence of Gondwana and Explain the central idea of Vistas:
climate history. Journey to the End of the Earth in your
own words.
Small environmental changes can scale through
connected systems. Apply one idea from Vistas: Journey to
the End of the Earth to a textbook-style
Direct experience can turn abstract climate
example or source.
knowledge into urgency.
Literary craft
Travel writing
Scientific reflection
Scale shifts from geological to personal
One-line recall Antarctica preserves evidence of Gondwana and climate history.
PADIKAM | CBSE NCERT CLASS 12 24

CHAPTER 23
Vistas: The Enemy
Quick understanding
Pearl S. Buck tests whether a Japanese doctor's professional duty can survive wartime nationalism and personal risk.
Core points Check your learning
Sadao treats a wounded enemy because he is a Explain the central idea of Vistas: The
doctor. Enemy in your own words.
Hana shares the danger despite fear. Apply one idea from Vistas: The Enemy
to a textbook-style example or source.
The General's selfish inaction reveals moral
weakness behind authority.
Literary craft
Wartime moral story
Suspense
Conflict between duty and loyalty
One-line recall Sadao treats a wounded enemy because he is a doctor.
PADIKAM | CBSE NCERT CLASS 12 25

CHAPTER 24

Vistas: On the Face of It

Quick understanding

Susan Hill’s play brings an isolated boy and an open-minded older man together to challenge prejudice and self-imposed withdrawal.

Core points Check your learning

Derry has internalised other people’s reactions to his scar. Explain the central idea of Vistas: On the Face of It in your own words.

Mr Lamb values attention to the whole world. Apply one idea from Vistas: On the Face of It to a textbook-style example or source.

The tragic ending intensifies the lesson without making change meaningless.

Literary craft

Dialogue-driven play

Symbolic garden

Contrast in outlook

One-line recall Derry has internalised other people’s reactions to his scar.

PADIKAM | CBSE NCERT CLASS 12 26

CHAPTER 25

Vistas: Memories of Childhood

Quick understanding

Zitkala-Sa and Bama recall different childhood encounters with caste and racial domination and their moves toward resistance.

Core points Check your learning

Zitkala-Sa experiences forced cultural erasure at school. Explain the central idea of Vistas: Memories of Childhood in your own words.

Bama first laughs, then understands caste humiliation. Apply one idea from Vistas: Memories of Childhood to a textbook-style example or source.

Education becomes a strategy of dignity and opposition.

Literary craft

Paired autobiographical extracts

Child viewpoint

Recognition leading to resistance

One-line recall Zitkala-Sa experiences forced cultural erasure at school.

PADIKAM | CBSE NCERT CLASS 12 27