PAPER I & PAPER II · 22ND EDITION OF CTET · 12–13 DECEMBER 2026

CTET December 2026

CDP Tag Words & NCERT Class 3–8 Summary

Paper I and Paper II — Child Development and Pedagogy, Environmental Studies, Mathematics, Science and Social Science, with practice questions and every answer explained

1,123 questions · English

Subash · Liternational Press

Contents

S.No	Heading	Pages
	Getting Started	**10–18**
	How to Use This Book	**11–12**
	What is inside	11
	What this book does not cover	11
	How each chapter works	11
	A note on the questions	12
	CTET December 2026 at a Glance	**13–15**
	The 22nd CTET	13
	Paper I (classes I to V) — 150 questions	14
	Paper II (classes VI to VIII) — 150 questions	14
	The CDP section — the same pattern in both papers	14
	What the subject questions are based on	15
	The NCERT Books for Classes 3–8 and the CTET Syllabus	**16–17**
	The NCERT textbooks in use in 2026–27	16
	Our Wondrous World — the EVS books, unit by unit	16
	How the CTET topics map to this book	17
	A Six-Week Plan and the Day of the Examination	**18**
	Six weeks to the examination	18
	In the hall and on the day	18
	Part I — Child Development and Pedagogy	**19–169**
1	**CDP Tag Words: The Signals of a Right Answer**	**20–34**
	How a CDP question is built	20
	The ten ideas behind most right answers	20
	Signals of a right answer	21
	Signals of a wrong answer	22
	Where the tag words mislead	22
	Reading a question in four steps	23
	Six worked readings	23
2	**Development, Heredity and Environment, and Socialisation**	**35–48**
	Growth, development, maturation and learning	35
	The domains of development	35
	The principles of development	36
	The stages of development	37
	Middle childhood (6–11): what a Paper I teacher should know	37
	Early adolescence (11–14): what a Paper II teacher should know	37

GETTING STARTED

CTET December 2026 at a Glance

From the Central Board of Secondary Education's information bulletin for the 22nd CTET (issued in May 2026 for an examination on 6 September 2026) and its public notice of 14 September 2026, which moved the examination to 12 and 13 December 2026.

The 22nd CTET

Item	Details
Conducted by	Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Delhi, for the Central Government
Edition	22nd edition of the Central Teacher Eligibility Test
Examination dates	12 and 13 December 2026 (CBSE public notice dated 14 September 2026); first fixed for 6 September 2026
Exam city and date	shown on the CTET portal 15 days before the examination
Admit card	on the CTET portal two days before the examination
Shifts (bulletin)	Paper II in the morning, 9:30 AM to 12:00 noon; Paper I in the evening, 2:30 PM to 5:00 PM
Reporting	7:30 AM for Paper II and 12:30 PM for Paper I; no entry after 9:30 AM and 2:30 PM
Mode	test booklet and OMR answer sheet, filled with your own black or blue ballpoint pen; pencil is not allowed
Questions	150 multiple-choice questions in each paper, four options each, one mark each
Negative marking	none
Duration	two and a half hours for each paper
Language of the paper	bilingual (Hindi and English); the two language sections in the languages you chose
Qualifying score	60% or more, that is 90 or more out of 150; managements may give concessions under their reservation policies
Validity of the certificate	lifetime, for all categories

Who writes which paper: Paper I is for those who want to teach classes I to V; Paper II is for classes VI to VIII. To teach at both levels, a candidate writes both papers.

CHAPTER 1

CDP Tag Words: The Signals of a Right Answer

CTET's CDP questions test whether you think like a child-centred, inclusive teacher. The options of most questions carry signal words — tag words — that point towards or away from that view. This chapter collects them, shows how to read a question with them, and marks the places where they mislead.

How a CDP question is built

- **The stem** is a classroom situation, a statement about a thinker, an idea from a policy or a definition.
- **The options** are four. The bulletin says that one of them "will be most appropriate", so several options may look reasonable; the task is to choose the best.
- **The wrong options** usually belong to one of four families: a traditional practice (rote learning, punishment, comparison); a half-truth ("development depends on heredity"); a correct idea that answers a different question; or an absolute claim ("always", "only").

The CTET syllabus speaks with the voice of the National Curriculum Framework 2005 and the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009: the child is an active learner, learning is social and linked to life, every child can learn, and assessment serves learning. Most right answers follow from these ideas.

The ten ideas behind most right answers

The idea	What it means in a classroom	Tag words
Knowledge is constructed	children build understanding by acting on experiences and linking new ideas with old ones	construct, explore, discover, experience, hands-on, prior knowledge
Learning is social	children learn by talking, working together and with help from a more capable person	discussion, peer learning, group work, scaffolding, zone of proximal development
Every child can learn	ability is not fixed; children differ in pace and style, and difference is a resource	diversity, individual differences, inclusion, multiple ways
Errors show thinking	a mistake reveals how the child is reasoning and is a step in learning	alternative conceptions, error analysis, diagnosis

The idea	What it means in a classroom	Tag words
Assessment serves learning	assessment is continuous, comprehensive, gives feedback and causes no fear	formative, feedback, portfolio, self-assessment, CCE
The teacher facilitates	the teacher creates situations, asks questions and guides	facilitator, guide, co-learner, reflective practitioner
Learning is linked to life	knowledge connects with children's homes, communities and surroundings	real-life, context, local knowledge, community
The home language is a resource	children think best in the language they know; many languages enrich a class	mother tongue, home language, multilingualism
Motivation comes from within	curiosity, interest and a sense of growing competence drive learning	intrinsic motivation, curiosity, interest, choice
Equity and sensitivity	no child is excluded or stereotyped for gender, caste, religion, language, poverty or disability	inclusive, gender-sensitive, non-discriminatory, equitable

Signals of a right answer

About the learner: active learner · constructs knowledge · natural curiosity · problem solver · "scientific investigator" · experiences · prior knowledge · readiness · interests · strengths · individual differences · autonomy · learner's own voice.

About teaching: child-centred · activity-based · play-based (for young children) · experiential · learning by doing · inquiry · exploration · discovery · project · discussion · dialogue · collaborative (cooperative) learning · peer learning · mixed-ability groups · scaffolding · real-life contexts · local resources · integrated or thematic teaching · open-ended tasks · questioning · reflection · critical thinking · creativity · multiple representations · the teacher as facilitator.

About assessment: assessment for learning · formative · continuous and comprehensive · feedback that is descriptive and specific · observation · anecdotal records · portfolios · rubrics · self-assessment · peer assessment · diagnosis followed by remedial support · process as well as product · learning outcomes and competencies.

About the classroom: democratic · safe · free from fear · respectful · flexible · print-rich · multilingual · encouraging · every child participates.

About diversity: inclusion · equity · respect for diversity · home language as a resource · reasonable accommodation · universal design · individual support · gender-sensitive language and materials.

CHAPTER 9

The CDP Tag-Word Dictionary, A to Z

Every term that the CDP chapters use, in one alphabetical list, with its meaning in a line and its usual signal in an option: ✓ points towards the right answer when the question asks for good practice; ✗ points towards a wrong answer; "term" marks a word to know by meaning or by its thinker. Read the list once a day in the last two weeks.

A to C

Term	Meaning	Signal
Accommodation	changing a schema, or making a new one, to fit a new experience (Piaget)	term
Achievement test	a test of what has been learnt	term
Active learning	the learner is engaged in doing and thinking, not only listening	✓
Activity-based learning	learning through tasks, experiments, play and projects	✓
ADHD	attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder: inattention, hyperactivity, impulsivity	term
Adolescence	roughly 12 to 18 years: puberty, abstract thought, the search for identity	term
Advance organiser	an introductory framework that links new material with what is known (Ausubel)	✓
Affective domain	feelings, attitudes and values (receiving → characterisation)	term
Alternative conception	a child's own idea that differs from the accepted one; the starting point of teaching	✓
Anecdotal record	a short, factual note of a significant incident	✓
Animism	believing that lifeless things are alive (preoperational stage)	term
Assessment as learning	learners monitor and reflect on their own learning	✓
Assessment for learning	formative assessment that improves learning while it happens	✓
Assessment of learning	summative assessment at the end of a period	term
Assimilation	fitting a new experience into an existing schema (Piaget)	term
Assistive technology	devices and software that help persons with disabilities to learn and take part	✓
Attribution	how a person explains success or failure — ability, effort, difficulty, luck (Weiner)	term
Authoritative parenting	warmth with reasoned limits (Baumrind)	✓

CHAPTER 10

CDP Test 1

30 questions in the CTET pattern — child development 1–15, inclusive education 16–20, learning and pedagogy 21–30. Allow yourself 30 minutes. There is no negative marking, so answer every question; then check the explained key.

CDP Test 1

1. A child of class 2 believes that a tall, thin glass holds more juice than a short, wide glass, though the same amount was poured into each. According to Piaget, the child:

(1) has reached the formal operational stage
(2) shows object permanence
(3) has not yet acquired conservation of liquid
(4) has mastered seriation

2. "Development is the product of both heredity and environment." Which classroom implication follows?

(1) All children will learn equally if taught in the same way
(2) The teacher should provide a rich environment while respecting individual differences
(3) The teacher can do nothing for children of low ability
(4) Heredity alone decides a child's achievement

3. Which statement about the principles of development is correct?

(1) Development proceeds from specific to general responses
(2) Development means the same as growth
(3) Development is predictable in its sequence but varies in its rate
(4) Development stops at puberty

4. Which group plays the most important role in a child's primary socialisation?

(1) Television channels
(2) The local government
(3) The family
(4) The school management

CHAPTER 14

EVS: Family and Friends — Relationships, Work and Play, Animals and Plants

CTET Paper I, Environmental Studies (15 content questions): the first theme of the syllabus, "Family and Friends", with its four sub-themes — relationships, work and play, animals and plants — as NCERT's EVS books for classes 3 to 5 teach them. The next chapter covers food, shelter, water, travel, and things we make and do.

Relationships

Families

- A **family** is a group of people related by birth, marriage or adoption who usually live together and care for each other.
- A **nuclear family** has parents and their children; a **joint (extended) family** also has grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins under one roof. Some families have a single parent; some children live with grandparents or other relatives.
- **Families change:** a baby is born, someone marries, an elder dies, a parent is transferred, or the family migrates to another town in search of work.
- A **family tree** shows how members of several generations are related. Children often resemble their parents and grandparents in features such as the colour of their eyes or the texture of their hair — such features pass from one generation to the next — while habits and skills are learnt.
- In a family, work is shared, elders are cared for, and children feel safe and loved. Work at home is everyone's work, not "girls' work" or "boys' work".

Friends, neighbours and community

- Friends play, share and help each other; neighbours help in need; a **community** is a group of people living in one area who share places, resources, festivals and work.
- **Community helpers** — the farmer, doctor, nurse, teacher, postal worker, sanitation worker, firefighter and police officer — provide services everyone depends on.
- A **mela** (fair) brings people of a region together: toys and crafts, food stalls, rides, music, and buying and selling.
- **Festivals** bring families and communities together. India's national festivals are Republic Day (26 January), Independence Day (15 August) and Gandhi Jayanti (2 October). Harvest festivals are celebrated across India — Pongal in Tamil Nadu, Bihu

CHAPTER 24

Social Science: History

CTET Paper II, Social Studies (40 content questions across history, geography and social and political life): the 24 history topics of the CTET syllabus, from "When, Where and How" to "India After Independence", as NCERT's books for classes 6 to 8 teach them. Dates follow NCERT's usage: "years ago" for early periods, BCE and CE later.

Where history sits in the 2026–27 NCERT books

Class	Exploring Society: India and Beyond — history and heritage chapters
6	Timeline and Sources of History · India, That Is Bharat · The Beginnings of Indian Civilisation · India's Cultural Roots
7, Part 1	New Beginnings: Cities and States · The Rise of Empires · The Age of Reorganisation · The Gupta Era: An Age of Tireless Creativity
7, Part 2	Empires and Kingdoms: 6th to 10th Centuries · Turning Tides: 11th and 12th Centuries
8, Part 1	Reshaping India's Political Map · The Rise of the Marathas · The Colonial Era in India
8, Part 2	India's Long Road to Independence · A Journey Through Indian Architecture · Cultural Currents: 13th to 17th Centuries

The CTET syllabus still names the topics of the earlier books, so the notes below follow its 24 history topics. The facts are the same in the new books, which arrange them differently.

When, where and how: sources and dates

- **Sources:** archaeological (tools, pottery, buildings, coins, bones, inscriptions) and literary (manuscripts written on palm leaf or birch bark; religious texts; travellers' accounts).
- **Inscriptions** are writings on hard surfaces such as stone or metal. Ashoka's inscriptions were mostly in Prakrit, in the **Brahmi** script, which **James Prinsep** deciphered in the 1830s.
- **Dates:** BC/AD are now often written BCE/CE ("before the Common Era" and "Common Era"); years BCE are counted backwards.