This is a Class 2 exam

Lebanon Evangelical School for Boys and Girls

...lighting the fires that burn for eternity...

Loueizeh - Baabda

Lebanon Evangelical School

for Boys and Girls Loueizeh - Baabda

SE01 Exam

09NOV2026

Do NOT write in this box. Your MARK will be placed here.

Subject :	English
Class :	10B
Teacher :	Mr. Omar Meho
Duration :	1 hour
You are to answer the questions to this exam on : this exam paper	

Your name :		*Time taken to complete exam*
Your Class :		
Exam Room :		
How many sheets, including cover sheet :		

- Do not open this paper until the teacher in charge instructs you to do so.
- The most important thing to remember in taking an exam is NEVER PANIC.
- If you are caught cheating in this exam, you will be awarded zero for ALL exams that are taken on this day.

There Will Come Soft Rains

By Ray Bradbury

At seven o'clock in the morning, the voice-clock sang cheerfully, reminding everyone that it was time to get up. However, the house was empty. No one answered the clock, and no footsteps crossed the floor.

In the kitchen, the breakfast stove prepared eight pieces of toast, eggs, bacon, coffee, and milk. A voice announced the date and reminded the family about birthdays and bills. The house continued its daily routine as if its owners were still alive.

At eight o'clock, the house announced that it was time to leave for school and work. The garage door opened, revealing the waiting car, but nobody came. Outside, rain fell gently against the windows. The house stood alone, performing its duties for an absent family.

By nine o'clock, tiny robotic mice rushed out of the walls to clean the rooms. They collected dust and dirt before disappearing into their hidden spaces. Soon, the house was spotless again.

At ten o'clock, the sun appeared over a ruined city. Buildings lay in ashes, and the streets were deserted. The house was the only one left standing. On its western wall, five white shapes remained where the intense heat had burned the paint around them: a man mowing the lawn, a woman picking flowers, a boy throwing a ball, a girl preparing to catch it, and the ball itself. These shadows were the only traces of the family that had once lived there.

At noon, a dog appeared at the front door, whining weakly. The house recognised its voice and opened the door. The animal was thin, covered in sores, and desperately searching for its owners. It ran through the rooms, scratching at doors and sniffing the air, hoping to find someone.

In the kitchen, the stove was preparing pancakes. The smell of food filled the house, but there was nobody to feed. The dog became increasingly restless, running in circles before collapsing and dying in the living room. After a while, the robotic mice carried its body away and cleaned the floor.

The house continued its routine. At two o'clock, the cleaning machines moved through the rooms. Later, tables appeared on the patio, cards were placed on them, and drinks and sandwiches were prepared. Yet the chairs remained empty, and the cards were never touched.

In the afternoon, the nursery walls lit up with colourful images of wild animals. Blue lions, yellow giraffes, and purple panthers appeared to move through a magical jungle. The floor resembled a grassy meadow, while artificial sounds filled the room with the atmosphere of a living forest. The nursery had once been a place of happiness for the children, but now its bright colours and cheerful sounds echoed through an empty house.

As evening approached, the house prepared baths, warmed the beds, and arranged the dinner dishes. At nine o'clock, a voice from the study asked Mrs McClellan which poem she would like to hear that evening. When nobody answered, the house selected a poem and began to read. Music played softly while the fire burned in the fireplace.

At ten o'clock, disaster struck. A strong wind blew a tree branch through the kitchen window. The branch knocked bottles of cleaning solvent onto the stove, and the room immediately burst into flames.

"Fire!" screamed the house.

Water sprayed from the ceilings, and mechanical devices rushed to fight the flames. Doors slammed shut, and hidden machines released chemicals in an attempt to extinguish the fire. However, the flames spread rapidly, consuming the kitchen and climbing the stairs.

The house struggled desperately to save itself. Water pumps worked, robotic machines hurried through the walls, and sprays poured down from the ceiling. Yet the fire continued to grow. Soon, the water supply was exhausted, and the flames devoured paintings, furniture, and curtains.

The house seemed almost alive as it trembled under the heat. Its wooden structure groaned, its wires became exposed, and its electronic voices cried out in panic. One by one, the voices fell silent as the flames destroyed the systems that controlled them.

In the nursery, the artificial jungle caught fire. The colourful animals appeared to flee across the walls before disappearing into the flames. The house's cheerful sounds turned into a terrible chorus of alarms, announcements, and desperate warnings.

At last, the fire reached the attic and destroyed the mechanism controlling the water pumps. The house could no longer defend itself. Its walls collapsed, and the rooms crashed into one another. The kitchen, living room, and cellar fell into a heap of burning wood and broken machines.

By dawn, the fire had died. Smoke drifted over the ruins, and silence covered the destroyed city. Only one wall remained standing.

Inside it, a small electronic voice continued to repeat the date:

"Today is August 5, 2026. Today is August 5, 2026. Today is August 5, 2026…"

The sun rose over the ashes, indifferent to the destruction below. The house was gone, the family was gone, and the world continued without them.

What is this?

Part One: Multiple-Choice Questions (5 marks / 1 each)

Choose the correct answer.

1. What is the most significant effect of the house continuing its daily routine despite the absence of its owners?

A. It suggests that the machines have developed genuine emotions for the family.

B. It highlights the contrast between technological efficiency and the destruction of human life.

C. It proves that the family will eventually return to the house.

D. It suggests that the house is unaware of how to perform its daily tasks.

2. Which aspect of the automated house most effectively reveals the dystopian world?

A. Its advanced technology makes daily life more convenient and comfortable.

B. Its perfectly organised routines conceal the catastrophic consequences of humanity's technological advancement.

C. Its mechanical systems demonstrate humanity's ability to control nature completely.

D. Its efficient services suggest that human civilisation has achieved lasting peace.

3. In "There Will Come Soft Rains," humanity has mastered automation but ultimately destroys itself. Which interpretation best reveals this paradox as a regressive tendency?

A. Humanity's technological achievements represent genuine progress because machines continue serving their original purpose.

B. Humanity advances intellectually but regresses morally, using its growing power to bring about its own extinction.

C. Humanity's disappearance allows nature to develop a more advanced form of civilisation.

D. Humanity's dependence on machines proves that technological progress inevitably leads to social equality.

4. Which statement best explains the irony of the house's destruction?

A. A house designed to operate automatically ultimately cannot save itself from a disaster.

B. The house is destroyed because the family deliberately abandons it.

C. The machines stop working because they refuse to follow their instructions.

D. The house survives the fire, but its owners return to find it empty.

5. What does the destruction of the automated house primarily symbolise?

A. The superiority of mechanical intelligence over human intelligence.

B. The inevitability of scientific discoveries leading to peace.

C. The fragility of technological achievements when confronted with destructive forces.

D. The complete disappearance of nature from the modern world.

Part Two: True or False (5 marks)

Write True or False for each statement. *If the statement is false, correct it.* (1 mark each)

1. "There will come soft rains and the smell of the ground."

Statement: The imagery suggests that nature will continue its cycles regardless of humanity's survival.

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2. "Fire!" screamed the house.

The personification of the house emphasises the vulnerability of technology when confronted with destruction. (True / False)

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3. "Today is August 5, 2026."

The repetition of the date throughout the story symbolises the passage of time and reinforces the house's mechanical routine, suggesting that technology continues to function without understanding the human tragedy surrounding it. (True / False)

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4. "They collected dust and dirt before disappearing into their hidden spaces."

The story is narrated in the third person, allowing the narrator to describe the house's activities without being a character in the story.

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5. "The house's cheerful sounds turned into a terrible chorus of alarms, announcements, and desperate warnings."

The central conflict is between the house and the family, who are trying to escape its control over their daily lives.

Part Three: Fill in the Blanks (3 marks / 0.5 each)

Complete the paragraphs using the correct types of imagery. Then identify the imagery in the individual sentences.

Word Bank: visual imagery / auditory imagery / olfactory imagery / tactile imagery / gustatory imagery / kinesthetic imagery

At dawn, the automated house begins another day in the deserted city. The pale sunlight filtering through the windows creates (1) _____. The rhythmic ticking of the clock produces (2) _____. The scent of damp ashes lingering in the air appeals to (3) _____. The cold metal handle of the front door creates (4) _____. If the narrator describes the unpleasant, bitter taste of the air after the fire, this would be (5) _____. Meanwhile, the mechanical cleaning devices race across the floor, creating (6) _____.

Part Four: Open-Ended Question (2 marks)

How does Bradbury support the idea that technological advancement is always a sign of human regression in "There Will Come Soft Rains?"

Part Five: Rewriting for Literary Effect (5 marks)

Read the paragraph below.

The fire spread through the house. Smoke filled the rooms, and the machines tried to stop the flames. The walls became hot, and the furniture burned. Soon, the house collapsed, leaving nothing but ashes and silence.

Rewrite the paragraph in 5–6 sentences, using the following literary devices to make the description more vivid and effective.

1. **Hyperbole:** Use deliberate exaggeration to emphasise the intensity of the destruction, such as describing flames that seem to consume the entire world.
2. **Personification:** Describe the fire or the house as if it has human qualities.
3. **Simile:** Compare the flames, smoke, or collapsing house to something else using like or as.

Preserve the original events while making your writing more descriptive and engaging.

Class 2 Exam

There Will Come Soft Rains

by Ray Bradbury

Part One: Multiple-Choice Questions (5 marks)

1. B — Technological efficiency contrasts with the destruction of human life.
2. B — Organised routines conceal the catastrophic consequences of technological advancement.
3. B — Humanity advances intellectually but regresses morally, bringing about its own extinction.
4. A — The automated house cannot save itself from disaster.
5. C — Technological achievements are fragile when confronted with destructive forces.

Part Two: True or False (5 marks)

1. True — Nature continues its cycles regardless of humanity's survival.
2. True — Personification highlights the vulnerability of technology to destruction.
3. True — The repeated date reinforces the mechanical routine and lack of awareness of human tragedy.
4. True — The narrator uses third-person point of view and is not a character.
5. False — The central conflict is between the house and the destructive fire, not the family.

Part Three: Fill in the Blanks (3 marks)

1. Visual imagery
2. Auditory imagery
3. Olfactory imagery
4. Tactile imagery
5. Gustatory imagery
6. Kinesthetic imagery

Part Four: Open-Ended Question (2 marks)

Suggested answer: Bradbury shows that technological advancement can accompany human regression: humanity has created sophisticated machines but has destroyed itself. The automated house continues serving a family that no longer exists, revealing the limits of technology. Its destruction by fire further demonstrates that progress without moral responsibility cannot guarantee human survival.

Marking criterion	Marks
Explains the contrast between technological progress and human destruction.	1
Supports the idea with an appropriate event or detail from the story.	1

Part Five: Rewriting for Literary Effect (5 marks)

Sample response: The fire roared through the house like a furious beast, devouring everything in its path. Towering flames stretched towards the ceiling, threatening to swallow the entire world in an ocean of fire. The terrified house screamed in agony as its machines desperately fought the inferno. Smoke crept through the rooms like a dark monster, while the furniture crumbled into ashes. The burning walls groaned as if begging for mercy, but the flames showed no compassion. At last, the house collapsed into a mountain of ashes, leaving behind a silence that seemed to swallow the universe.

Marking criterion	Marks
Effective use of hyperbole	1
Effective use of personification	1
Effective use of simile	1
Preserves the original sequence of events	1
Coherence, sentence structure, descriptive effect and 5–6 sentences	1
Total	**5/5**