

WEST BENGAL BOARD CLASS XII SYLLABUS ENGLISH Printable PDF

West Bengal Board Class XII Syllabus English

The West Bengal Board Class XII Syllabus English is a meticulously designed curriculum aimed at enhancing students' language proficiency, literary appreciation, and communication skills. It plays a pivotal role in preparing students for higher education and future career opportunities by developing their understanding of English literature and language. This syllabus not only emphasizes reading, writing, and comprehension skills but also encourages critical thinking and analytical abilities through diverse literary texts and language exercises. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore the detailed syllabus, important sections, exam pattern, tips for preparation, and resources to excel in the West Bengal Board Class XII English examination.

Overview of West Bengal Board Class XII English Syllabus

The syllabus is divided into two main sections:

- Part A: Reading Comprehension and Writing Skills
- Part B: Literary Texts and Supplementary Reading

Each section is carefully curated to ensure a balanced focus on language abilities and literary knowledge.

Part A: Reading Comprehension and Writing Skills

This section aims to strengthen students' ability to understand and interpret various texts, as well as to express their ideas effectively through writing.

- Reading Comprehension

Students are required to practice understanding different types of texts, including:

- Unseen passages (both descriptive and discursive)
- Poems

- Short stories
- Articles and essays

Key skills include:

- Extracting the main idea
- Inferring meaning from context
- Summarizing information
- Making inferences and predictions

- Writing Skills

The writing section encompasses various types of compositions, such as:

- Formal and informal letters
- Essays (personal, descriptive, argumentative)
- Reports
- Speech writing
- Notices and advertisements
- Precis writing and expansion of ideas

Preparation tips:

- Practice different formats regularly
- Focus on clarity, coherence, and grammatical accuracy
- Enhance vocabulary and sentence structure

Part B: Literary Texts and Supplementary Reading

This section forms the core of the syllabus and involves studying prescribed texts along with supplementary reading to develop a deeper understanding of English literature and language nuances.

- Prescribed Texts

Students study a set of literary works prescribed by the West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary

Education (WBCHSE). These typically include:

- Poetry: Selected poems from renowned poets focusing on themes like love, nature, human emotions, and social issues.
- Prose: Short stories, essays, and extracts from novels that explore moral, social, and philosophical themes.
- Drama/Play: (If included in specific syllabi) excerpts or acts from plays to understand dramatic techniques and character development.

Examples may include:

- Poems by William Wordsworth, Emily Dickinson, or Rabindranath Tagore
- Short stories from authors like Anton Chekhov or O. Henry
- Essays on social issues or personal development

- Supplementary Reading

This involves reading additional texts such as:

- Articles from newspapers and magazines
- Short stories and poems beyond the prescribed texts
- Literary excerpts to enhance interpretive skills

Purpose:

- Broaden literary exposure
- Develop critical thinking
- Improve contextual understanding

Examination Pattern and Marking Scheme

Understanding the exam pattern is crucial for effective preparation. Typically, the Class XII English examination includes:

| Section | Content | Marks |

| ----- | ----- | ----- |

| Part A | Reading Comprehension & Writing Skills | 50 marks |

| Part B | Literary Texts and Supplementary Reading | 50 marks |

Total Marks: 100

Question types include:

- Objective questions (multiple choice or short answer)
- Short-answer questions
- Long-answer questions requiring detailed responses

Key points for students:

- Time management during the exam
- Practice previous years' question papers
- Focus on both accuracy and presentation

Important Topics and Tips for Preparation

To excel in the West Bengal Board Class XII English exam, students should prioritize the following areas:

- Master Reading and Comprehension Skills
 - Practice unseen passages regularly
 - Improve vocabulary through reading diverse materials
 - Develop quick inference skills
- Enhance Writing Skills
 - Practice writing different types of essays and letters
 - Focus on grammar, punctuation, and sentence variety

- Seek feedback and revise accordingly

- Deepen Literary Understanding

- Memorize important poems, themes, and character sketches
- Understand literary devices and figures of speech
- Analyze texts critically

- Stay Updated with Supplementary Reading

- Read newspapers, magazines, and online articles
- Keep notes of new vocabulary and idiomatic expressions
- Participate in discussions and literary clubs

- Practice Past Papers and Sample Questions

- Solve previous years' question papers
- Time yourself to simulate exam conditions
- Identify weak areas and work on them

Resources for Students

To support their preparation, students can utilize various resources:

- Official WBCHSE Syllabus and Sample Papers

Access from the official WBCHSE website for authentic materials.

- Class XII English Textbooks

Study prescribed texts thoroughly, with annotations and notes.

- Reference Books and Guides

Use reputed guides for practice and conceptual clarity.

- Online Platforms and Tutorials

Engage with video lessons, mock tests, and discussion forums.

- Coaching Classes and Study Groups

Join coaching centers or peer groups for collaborative learning.

Benefits of a Well-Structured Syllabus

A comprehensive syllabus offers several advantages:

- Provides a clear roadmap for preparation
- Ensures balanced coverage of language skills and literature
- Helps students prioritize important topics
- Boosts confidence through systematic practice
- Facilitates better time management during exams

Conclusion

The West Bengal Board Class XII Syllabus English is designed to foster linguistic competence, literary appreciation, and critical thinking skills among students. By understanding the detailed syllabus, practicing regularly, and utilizing available resources, students can achieve academic excellence. Preparing strategically across all sections of the syllabus will not only help in securing good marks but also lay a strong foundation for higher studies and professional growth. Embrace the syllabus as a pathway to exploring the richness of English literature and language, and approach your exams with confidence and zeal.

West Bengal Board Class XII Syllabus English is a comprehensive program designed to enhance students' language proficiency, literary appreciation, and communicative skills. As one of the core subjects in the curriculum, English for Class XII under the West Bengal Board (WBCHSE) aims to prepare students not only for academic excellence but also for effective real-world communication. This syllabus strikes a balance between language development and literary analysis, ensuring students gain a well-rounded understanding of the English language and literature.

In this article, we will explore the detailed syllabus structure, key components, features, and the pros and cons associated with the WB Class XII English syllabus, providing students, teachers, and parents with a clear understanding of what to expect and how to prepare effectively.

Overview of the WB Class XII English Syllabus

The WB Class XII English syllabus is divided into two main parts: Core Language Paper and Literature Paper. This division reflects the dual focus of the course?improving language skills and fostering literary appreciation. The syllabus is curated to develop reading, writing, listening, and speaking abilities, along with an understanding of various literary genres.

Key Features:

- Emphasis on both language and literature.
- Integration of modern and classical texts.
- Focus on comprehension, grammar, and vocabulary.
- Inclusion of writing skills such as essays, reports, and formal/informal letters.
- Literary texts include poetry, prose, drama, and supplementary reading.

Part I: Core Language Paper

The core language component is designed to strengthen foundational language skills. It encompasses grammar, vocabulary, comprehension, and writing.

1. Grammar and Language Skills

This section covers essential grammar topics, including:

- Tenses and their usages
- Voice and narration
- Modal verbs
- Articles, prepositions, and conjunctions
- Sentence transformation
- Punctuation and spelling

Features:

- Practice-based learning to improve grammatical accuracy.

- Focus on applying grammar in context through exercises.

Pros:

- Builds strong grammatical foundation.
- Enhances clarity and correctness in writing and speaking.

Cons:

- Can be repetitive if not integrated with creative exercises.
- May require extra effort for students weak in grammar.

2. Comprehension and Vocabulary

Students are expected to develop skills in understanding and interpreting passages, along with vocabulary enrichment.

- Unseen passages (both prose and poetry)
- Note-making and summarizing
- Synonyms, antonyms, idioms, and phrases

Features:

- Emphasis on extracting main ideas and details.
- Strategies for quick reading and comprehension.

Pros:

- Improves reading speed and understanding.
- Prepares students for competitive exams.

Cons:

- Heavy focus on unseen passages may be intimidating for some.
- Vocabulary building requires continuous effort.

3. Writing Skills

Students practice various forms of writing:

- Short and long compositions
- Formal and informal letters
- Reports, notices, and dialogues
- Essays on social issues, personal experiences, and current affairs

Features:

- Focus on clarity, coherence, and correctness.
- Opportunities to develop creative and analytical writing.

Pros:

- Prepares students for real-world communication.
- Enhances expressive skills.

Cons:

- Some students may find writing under exam conditions stressful.
- Needs consistent practice for mastery.

Part II: Literature Paper

The literature component introduces students to a wide array of texts, encouraging critical analysis, appreciation, and understanding of various literary movements and themes.

1. Prescribed Texts

The core literature texts typically include:

- Poetry: Selected poems from diverse poets, emphasizing poetic devices, themes, and interpretations.
- Prose: Short stories, essays, and excerpts from novels or plays.

- Drama: Analyzing plays to understand character development and themes.
- Supplementary Texts: Additional reading materials to broaden literary exposure.

Features:

- Focus on textual analysis and appreciation.
- Emphasis on themes, tone, and literary devices.
- Encourages personal interpretation and critical thinking.

Pros:

- Develops analytical skills.
- Fosters a love for literature.
- Prepares students for higher studies in literature.

Cons:

- Requires extensive reading and memorization.
- Some texts may be challenging for average students.

2. Internal Assessment and Project Work

In addition to written exams, students often undertake projects, presentations, or internal assessments that foster engagement and deeper understanding.

Features:

- Encourages research and independent study.
- Develops presentation and communication skills.

Pros:

- Promotes active learning.
- Builds confidence.

Cons:

- Time-consuming.
- May require guidance and resources.

Exam Pattern and Assessment

The assessment pattern generally includes:

- Core Language Paper: 70 marks
- Literature Paper: 70 marks

Each paper involves objective questions, short-answer questions, and essay-type questions. The evaluation emphasizes comprehension, analytical skills, and expressive abilities.

Features:

- Clear marking scheme.
- Emphasis on application rather than rote memorization.

Pros:

- Fair and comprehensive assessment.
- Promotes holistic understanding.

Cons:

- May pressure students due to varied question types.
- Requires consistent preparation.

Advantages of the WB Class XII English Syllabus

- Holistic Development: Combines language skills with literary appreciation.
- Preparation for Future: Equips students for competitive exams and higher education.
- Skill Enhancement: Improves reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills.
- Cultural Awareness: Exposure to diverse texts enhances cultural understanding.
- Critical Thinking: Analytical questions foster reasoning abilities.

Challenges and Areas for Improvement

- Heavy Workload: The extensive syllabus can overwhelm students.
- Text Complexity: Some literary texts may be difficult for average learners.
- Resource Availability: Adequate quality study materials and guidance may not always be accessible.
- Focus on Examination: Tendency to prioritize exam-oriented preparation over genuine learning.

Conclusion

The West Bengal Board Class XII Syllabus English is thoughtfully designed to foster comprehensive language and literary skills. Its balanced approach prepares students not only for their board examinations but also for higher studies and real-life communication. While the syllabus offers numerous benefits, including skill development and cultural exposure, it also demands dedicated effort and effective guidance from educators and students alike.

To maximize the benefits, students should adopt consistent study habits, explore a variety of literary texts beyond the syllabus, and actively engage in speaking and writing activities. Teachers can facilitate this by providing interactive lessons, supplementary resources, and encouragement for creative expression.

Overall, the WB Class XII English syllabus is a valuable academic pathway that, when approached earnestly, can significantly contribute to students' intellectual growth and linguistic competence, laying a strong foundation for their future endeavors.

QuestionAnswer What are the main sections of the West Bengal Board Class XII English syllabus? The syllabus is divided into reading, writing, grammar, and literature sections, covering prose, poetry, supplementary reading, grammar exercises, and writing skills. Which novels and plays are included in the Class XII English literature syllabus? The syllabus typically includes texts like 'A Tale of Two Cities' by Charles Dickens, 'The Portrait of a Lady' by Khushwant Singh, and plays like 'The Merchant of Venice' by William Shakespeare. Are there any specific grammar topics emphasized in the Class XII English syllabus? Yes, topics such as tenses, modals, voice, narration, clauses, and punctuation are emphasized to strengthen grammar skills. What are the recommended preparation tips for the Class XII English exam? Focus on understanding the literature texts, practice writing essays and letters, revise grammar rules regularly, and solve previous years' question papers for practice. Does the syllabus include comprehension and unseen passages? Yes, comprehension passages and unseen passages are a core part of the reading section to test understanding and analytical skills. Are there any changes or updates in the West Bengal Board Class XII English syllabus recently? The syllabus is periodically reviewed; it is advisable to check the official West Bengal Board website or recent notifications for the latest updates. How many

marks are allocated to the English paper in Class XII exams? The English paper typically carries 80 marks, with internal assessments or project work accounting for additional marks as per the board's guidelines. Where can students find the official syllabus and sample question papers for Class XII English? Students can access the official syllabus and sample papers on the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education's official website or through their schools.

Related keywords: West Bengal Board, Class XII, English syllabus, WBCHSE syllabus, 12th English curriculum, West Bengal 12th standard, WB Board English course, Class XII English topics, WBCHSE English exam pattern, West Bengal HS English syllabus

AN INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE

An Introduction to English Language

The English language is one of the most widely spoken and influential languages in the world today. From global business and international diplomacy to entertainment and technology, English serves as a vital communication tool across countless domains. Understanding the roots, development, and characteristics of the English language is essential for learners, educators, linguists, and anyone interested in global communication. This comprehensive guide aims to provide an insightful introduction to the English language, exploring its history, structure, global significance, and future trends.

Historical Background of the English Language

The Origins of English

English is a Germanic language that originated in early medieval England. Its roots can be traced back to the Anglo-Saxon tribes—Angles, Saxons, and Jutes—that migrated to the British Isles around the 5th century AD. The language spoken by these tribes formed the basis of Old English.

The Evolution Through Ages

The history of English is marked by several distinct periods:

- **Old English (c. 450–1150 AD):** Characterized by Germanic roots, Old English was heavily influenced by Norse invaders and Latin church influence.
- **Middle English (c. 1150–1500 AD):** Marked by Norman conquest in 1066, which introduced

Norman French vocabulary and grammar influences.

- **Early Modern English (c. 1500-1700 AD):** The Renaissance brought a revival of classical learning, expanding vocabulary and standardizing spelling and grammar.

- **Modern English (1700 AD to present):** The language continued to evolve with colonial expansion, technological advances, and globalization, leading to the diverse forms of English spoken today.

The Role of Literary and Cultural Influences

English literature, from Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* to William Shakespeare's plays and modern authors like J.K. Rowling, has significantly shaped the language's development. Cultural exchanges through colonization, trade, and diplomacy have also contributed to the vocabulary and idiomatic expressions in English.

The Structure and Features of the English Language

Phonology and Pronunciation

English phonology includes a wide range of vowel and consonant sounds. The pronunciation varies significantly across different regions and accents, which adds to the language's richness but also presents challenges for learners.

Vocabulary and Lexicon

English boasts one of the largest vocabularies among languages, with estimates ranging from 150,000 to over a million words, considering technical and scientific terms. This extensive lexicon is a result of:

- Borrowings from Latin, French, Greek, and other languages
- Coining of new terms during technological and scientific advancements
- Slang and colloquialisms evolving over time

Grammar and Syntax

English grammar is characterized by:

- Relatively simple verb conjugation compared to other languages
- Use of auxiliary verbs for tense and aspect (e.g., be, have, do)
- Flexible word order, with Subject-Verb-Object being standard

- Extensive use of prepositions and articles

Writing System

English uses the Latin alphabet, consisting of 26 letters. Its orthography (spelling system) can be complex due to historical spelling conventions, silent letters, and irregular pronunciation rules.

The Global Significance of the English Language

English as a Global Lingua Franca

Today, English is regarded as the world's primary lingua franca—an auxiliary language used for international communication. It is the official or working language in over 50 countries and widely used in international organizations like the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee.

English in Business and Commerce

English dominates international business, finance, and trade. Many multinational corporations operate primarily in English, and proficiency is often a prerequisite for global career opportunities.

English in Science, Technology, and Education

A significant portion of scientific research, technological development, and academic publications are in English. Universities worldwide offer courses in English to attract international students.

English in Media and Entertainment

English-language media, including movies, music, television, and literature, have a global reach. Hollywood films, English pop music, and online streaming platforms have popularized the language worldwide.

English on the Internet and Social Media

English is the dominant language on the internet, accounting for a large percentage of online content. Social media platforms facilitate global interaction primarily in English, further fostering its universal status.

Learning and Teaching the English Language

Why Learn English?

Learning English offers numerous benefits:

- Access to a vast amount of information and educational resources
- Enhanced employability and career prospects
- Ability to communicate with people worldwide
- Participation in global culture and entertainment

Methods of Learning English

Effective approaches include:

- Classroom instruction with trained teachers
- Online courses and language learning apps
- Immersive experiences through travel and cultural exchange
- Practice with native speakers or language exchange partners

Challenges in Learning English

Some common difficulties faced by learners are:

- Complex spelling and pronunciation rules
- Irregular verb forms
- Idiomatic expressions and phrasal verbs
- Regional accents and dialects

The Future of the English Language

Emerging Trends

English continues to evolve with technological innovations:

- Increased influence of digital communication and social media
- Emergence of new slang and internet vernacular
- Globalization leading to more diverse accents and dialects
- Integration of loanwords from other languages due to cultural exchange

Potential Challenges

As the language grows, there are concerns about:

- Language homogenization potentially overshadowing regional dialects
- Loss of linguistic diversity
- Difficulty in maintaining standardization across different regions

Conclusion

The English language remains a dynamic and influential means of communication. Its rich history, extensive vocabulary, and widespread use make it an invaluable global asset. Whether for personal growth, academic pursuits, or professional development, learning English opens doors to countless opportunities. As the world continues to embrace globalization and technological innovation, the role of English is poised to expand further, shaping the future of international communication.

Keywords for SEO Optimization:

- Introduction to English language
- History of English
- English language structure
- Global importance of English
- Learn English online
- English language development
- English as a lingua franca
- Benefits of learning English
- Future of the English language
- English language learning tips

Introduction to the English Language: A Comprehensive Overview

The English language, often regarded as the global lingua franca, has a rich history, complex structure, and widespread influence that permeates nearly every corner of the world. As one of the most widely spoken and studied languages today, understanding its fundamentals offers invaluable insights into its role in communication, culture, and international relations. This detailed exploration delves into the origins, evolution, grammatical features, vocabulary, phonetics, and the significance of English in contemporary society.

Historical Background of the English Language

Origins and Early Development

The roots of English trace back over 1,400 years to the Germanic tribes—namely the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes—who migrated to the British Isles around the 5th century AD. These tribes brought with them their languages, which gradually coalesced into what we now call Old English.

Key points about early English:

- Old English (circa 450–1150 AD): Characterized by a complex system of inflections, a vocabulary heavily influenced by Latin and Norse, and a rich oral tradition including epic poetry like *Beowulf*.
- Influence of Latin and Norse: Latin arrived through Christian missionaries, while Norse influence increased due to Viking invasions, shaping vocabulary and syntax.

Middle English and the Norman Conquest

The Norman Conquest of 1066 marked a pivotal turning point:

- Norman French influence: The ruling class spoke Norman French, which heavily influenced the vocabulary, especially in law, governance, art, and cuisine.
- Language features: Middle English (circa 1150–1500) saw simplification of inflectional endings and an expansion of vocabulary.

Early Modern English and the Renaissance

From the late 15th to the early 17th century:

- The Renaissance: Brought a revival of classical learning and an influx of Latin and Greek words.
- The printing press: Invented by Johannes Gutenberg, it standardized spelling and grammar, making literature more accessible.
- Notable figures: William Shakespeare and the King James Bible significantly shaped the language.

Modern English and Global Spread

Since the 17th century:

- Colonial expansion: British colonization spread English worldwide.
- Industrial Revolution: Facilitated international trade and communication.

- Contemporary English: Continues to evolve with influences from numerous languages and cultures, especially in the digital age.

Structural Aspects of the English Language

Phonetics and Pronunciation

English phonetics is known for its complexity and variability:

- Consonant and vowel sounds: The language features approximately 24 consonant sounds and around 20 vowel sounds, with many variations.
- Spelling and pronunciation discrepancies: Due to historical influences, English spelling often does not align directly with pronunciation (e.g., though vs. through).

Grammar and Syntax

English grammar, while relatively straightforward compared to some languages, has distinctive features:

- Parts of speech: Nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections.
- Sentence structure: Typically follows a Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) order.
- Tenses: Present, past, future, along with perfect and progressive aspects.
- Agreement: Subject-verb agreement in number and person.
- Modifiers: Use of adjectives and adverbs to add detail.

Vocabulary and Lexicon

English boasts an extensive vocabulary, estimated at over a million words:

- Loanwords: Borrowed extensively from Latin, French, Greek, German, and many other languages.
- Synonyms and antonyms: Rich variety of words with nuanced differences, offering precision and expressiveness.
- Neologisms: Continual creation of new words, especially in technology and popular culture.

Unique Features of the English Language

Orthography and Spelling

English spelling can be irregular due to its diverse origins:

- Historical influences: Words retain spellings from older forms or borrowed languages.
- Examples: Knight, psychology, colonel.
- Spelling reforms: There have been proposals but no widespread standardization.

Idioms and Phrasal Verbs

Idiomatic expressions and phrasal verbs are integral:

- Idioms: Phrases whose meanings are not deducible from individual words (e.g., kick the bucket).
- Phrasal verbs: Verb + particle combinations with idiomatic meanings (e.g., look up, give in).

Varieties and Dialects

English manifests in numerous dialects:

- British English: Variations like Cockney, Received Pronunciation.
- American English: Distinct vocabulary and pronunciation.
- Other varieties: Australian, Canadian, Indian English, each with unique features.

The Role of English in the Modern World

Global Lingua Franca

English is the primary language of:

- International diplomacy
- Business and commerce
- Science and technology
- Entertainment and media

English in Education and Research

- Most scientific journals publish in English.
- Universities worldwide offer courses in English.
- English proficiency is often a requirement for international careers.

The Digital Age and English

- Dominance in internet content, social media, and digital communication.
- Emergence of digital slang, memes, and abbreviations, influencing language evolution.

Cultural Impact

- English-language music, films, and literature shape global pop culture.
- Cultural exchange and understanding facilitated through shared language.

Learning and Teaching English

Methods and Approaches

- Traditional grammar-translation
- Communicative language teaching
- Immersive and bilingual approaches
- Use of technology and online platforms

Challenges for Learners

- Irregular spelling and pronunciation
- Idiomatic expressions
- Extensive vocabulary
- Variations in dialects and accents

Resources and Tools

- Language apps (Duolingo, Babbel)
- Online courses and tutorials
- Media and literature in English
- Language exchange programs

Conclusion

The English language remains a dynamic, influential, and complex means of communication. Its history reflects centuries of cultural exchange and adaptation, shaping a language that is both diverse and adaptable. For learners, educators, and global citizens alike, understanding English's structure, history, and role in society unlocks numerous opportunities for connection, learning, and cultural appreciation. As it continues to evolve in the digital age, English's significance is poised to grow, cementing its status as a cornerstone of international communication.

In summary, mastering the English language provides access to a vast repository of knowledge, culture, and opportunities. Its rich history and widespread use make it a fascinating subject of study and an essential skill in today's interconnected world. Whether for academic pursuits, professional advancement, or cultural engagement, an introduction to English opens the door to endless possibilities.

QuestionAnswer What are the key features that define the English language? English is a West Germanic language characterized by a rich vocabulary, extensive use of loanwords, and a flexible grammar system. It is known for its adaptability, widespread global use, and its role as a lingua franca in international communication. How did the English language develop over time? English evolved from the Anglo-Saxon languages brought to Britain by Germanic tribes around the 5th century. It was later influenced by Norman French, Latin, and other languages, leading to the Modern English we use today. This development spans Old English, Middle English, and Modern English periods. Why is English considered a global language? English is considered a global language because it is the primary or secondary language in many countries, used extensively in international business, science, technology, entertainment, and diplomacy, making it a key tool for global communication. What are the main components of learning the English language? Learning English involves mastering four main components: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Additionally, understanding grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and cultural context are essential for effective communication. How has the internet influenced the spread and evolution of the English language? The internet has accelerated the global spread of English, introduced new slang, abbreviations, and digital communication styles, and facilitated intercultural exchange, thereby continuously shaping and evolving the language in real-time.

Related keywords: English language, language learning, linguistics, grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, syntax, phonetics, language skills, language history

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