PAUL ACADEMY

English Mines™ | Prepared by Paul Masih

Class 10 English Communicative (101)

Sample Question Paper 20

Academic Session 2026–27 | Board Examination 2027

Time allowed: 3 hours Maximum marks: 80

General Instructions

1. This paper has 12 main questions in FOUR sections. All main questions are compulsory; follow the internal choices.

2. Write the question number and subpart clearly. Attempt only the required number of alternatives.

3. Follow the word limits. Reading short answers and literature short answers require 30–40 words; literature long answers require about 150 words.

4. Writing limits are maxima: application 50, factual description 100, formal letter 120 and article 150 words.

5. All unseen texts and datasets are original practice material. Names, addresses and survey data are fictional. No external knowledge is needed for reading answers.

Section A Reading Skills 22 marks

1 Read the passage and answer all parts 12 marks

The lunch-time chessboard

1. On Tuesdays, Mr Bose brought a chessboard to the school courtyard. Anyone could sit opposite him during lunch, and anyone could leave when the bell rang. I watched for three weeks before playing. He usually won without announcing the result to the whole courtyard. That quietness made it possible for beginners to return.

2. When I finally won, a friend began calling others over. I expected Mr Bose to explain that he had let me win, but he studied the board and said I had used an opening he had not anticipated. I wanted the victory to mean that I had become the better player. He suggested another game the following Tuesday. One result, he said, was worth enjoying without making it carry a complete ranking of two people.

3. The next week I lost quickly. I pushed my chair back, blaming noise from the corridor. Mr Bose did not tell me that noise never mattered. He asked which move I would reconsider if we set the same position up again. Looking at the board was less comfortable than blaming the corridor, but it gave me something I could actually practise. We replayed the position without recording another result.

4. By the end of term, I had stopped inviting spectators only when I expected to win. Sometimes a younger student took my seat, and I helped put the pieces away. The board remained a place to compete, not an exercise in pretending that results did not matter. Yet winning no longer had to establish my entire worth, and losing no longer had to be explained by somebody else's fault. I could return because there would be another position to examine.

i. What makes beginners willing to return? [1]

ii. How does Mr Bose explain the narrator's win?
A. He deliberately gave away the game.
B. The narrator used an opening he had not anticipated.
C. The bell ended the game.
D. Someone moved the pieces secretly. [1]

iii. Why does Mr Bose resist turning one result into a complete ranking? Answer in 30–40 words. [2]

iv. What does the narrator blame after losing? [1]

v. What practical question does Mr Bose ask? [1]

vi. “Anticipated” means:
A. expected or foreseen
B. forbidden
C. copied into a book
D. announced publicly [1]

vii. How does replaying the position differ from merely finding an excuse? Answer in 30–40 words. [2]

viii. Complete: The replayed position produces no new recorded _____. [1]

ix. True or false: By term’s end, the narrator believes competition has no value. [1]

x. Which ending behaviour best supports changed attitudes?
A. Calling spectators only for expected victories
B. Refusing younger players a seat
C. Helping put pieces away even when another student plays
D. Leaving permanently after a loss [1]

2 Read the text and data and answer all parts 10 marks

Club tournament bulletin

Under this club’s fictional rules, a win earns three points, a draw one point and a loss zero. All players have completed five games. Higher points rank first. If two players have equal points, the player with fewer losses ranks above the other. No further tie-break is needed for this table.

The bulletin reports outcomes only. It contains no record of the order of games, opponents or moves. Rankings must use the stated rule, not assumptions about unbeaten records or the quality of play.

Player	Wins	Draws	Losses
Asha	2	3	0
Bilal	3	1	1
Charu	3	0	2
Deep	1	2	2

Fictional club rule, not a claim about standard tournament regulations.

i. How many points does Bilal earn? [1]

ii. Who ranks first?
A. Asha
B. Bilal
C. Charu
D. Deep [1]

iii. Explain why Asha ranks above Charu in 30–40 words. [2]

iv. How many points does Deep earn? [1]

v. Who is unbeaten? [1]

vi. What confirms that every row represents five games? [1]

vii. Why does an unbeaten record not guarantee first place here? Answer in 30–40 words. [2]

viii. True or false: The bulletin shows that Bilal won his final game. [1]

Section B Writing Skills 22 marks

3 Application 3 marks

Write in a maximum of 50 words.

You are Nikhil Roy, X C, PAUL ACADEMY. Request a certificate confirming current enrolment for a scholarship application. Give the submission date, 22 December, and offer the prescribed form.

4 Factual description 4 marks

Write in a maximum of 100 words.

Describe librarian Ms Zoya: about forty; shoulder-length black hair; rectangular glasses; cream kurta; maroon identification lanyard; scans returned books; checks spine labels; arranges a trolley beside the desk.

5 Formal letter 7 marks

Attempt either A or B. Write in a maximum of 120 words.

A. You are Nikhil Roy, 18 Ash Road, Indore. Ask the Festival Committee Secretary to stop cutting live branches for temporary decorations and consider reusable fabric or existing materials. MCB Unit 4 Environment.

OR

B. You are Diya Sen, 4 Park Lane, Indore. Complain to Horizon Tours that an advertised all-inclusive school trip excluded lunch charges disclosed only after booking. Request clarification and an appropriate remedy. MCB Unit 5 Travel and Tourism.

6 Article 8 marks

Attempt either A or B. Write in a maximum of 150 words.

A. As Nikhil Roy, write “Decorations should outlast an evening”. Cues: temporary displays; reusable materials; storage; shared planning; environment. MCB Unit 4 Environment.

OR

B. As Diya Sen, write “Ask what the price includes”. Cues: school trips; meals; entries; advertisements; written breakdown; informed choice. MCB Unit 5 Travel and Tourism.

Section C Grammar 10 marks

7 Gap filling 3 marks

Choose the correct option for each gap. Each part carries 1 mark.

The club (i) _____ the final round next Tuesday. (ii) _____ player must record a result, including those who draw. The bell has not rung: players (iii) _____ leave yet, but they may if they wish.

i. (i) A. held yesterday B. will hold C. holding D. has holds [1]

ii. (ii) A. Every B. Many C. Several D. Both [1]

iii. (iii) A. must not B. cannot C. need not D. ought to [1]

8 Editing 4 marks

Each numbered sentence has exactly one incorrect word. Write the error and its correction. Each part carries 1 mark.

No.	Sentence	Error	Correction
i	The number of drawn games are recorded here.		
ii	She carried an university tournament notice.		
iii	We asked why the player were absent.		
iv	This is the box who contains the spare pieces.		

9 Transformation and reordering 3 marks

Do as directed. Each part carries 1 mark.

i. Report: Diya asked Nikhil, “Why are you smiling?” Begin: Diya asked Nikhil … [1]

ii. Combine using if: Practise this position. You may notice another move. [1]

iii. Reply to “What do you hope?” Reorder: that / everyone enjoys / the visit / we hope [1]

Section D Literature Textbook 26 marks

10 Reference to context 8 marks

Attempt ANY TWO of extracts A, B and C. Answer all four parts of each chosen extract briefly. Each extract carries 4 × 1 = 4 marks.

A Patol Babu, Film Star

The fact that he ignores you reflects his extreme preoccupation--see? Just think how crucial the shot is.

i. Who is explaining the scene to Patol Babu? [1]

ii. Whom does “he” refer to within the film scene? [1]

iii. Why does the executive ignore the pedestrian? [1]

iv. What function does the collision give the small role? [1]

B Two Gentlemen of Verona

At the door of a little cubicle the nurse paused, put her finger to her lips, and with a smile bade me to look through the glass partition.

i. What does the finger-to-lips gesture request? [1]

ii. What allows the narrator to see without entering? [1]

iii. What does the nurse’s smile add to the silent instruction? [1]

iv. Why is quiet appropriate in this setting? [1]

C The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

About, about, in reel and rout

The death-fires danced at night;

The water, like a witch's oils,

Burnt green, and blue, and white.

i. At what time is this spectacle seen? [1]

ii. What human activity is given to the death-fires? [1]

iii. What effect does the witch’s-oils comparison create? [1]

iv. Name the three colours. [1]

11 Short answers 10 marks

Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions in 30–40 words each. Each answer carries 2 marks.

i. How does real pain change Patol Babu's planned emotional mixture? (Patol Babu, Film Star) [2]

ii. Why does Nicola mention America without explaining the immediate use of the money? (Two Gentlemen of Verona) [2]

iii. What makes Henry's defence of the obituary verse weak? (The Dear Departed) [2]

iv. How does Calpurnia's list of strange sounds reinforce her warning? (Julius Caesar) [2]

v. What comic impatience does John show towards Helen's slow reappearance? (A Shady Plot) [2]

vi. Why does the Mariner mention that no bird comes for food or play? (The Rime of the Ancient Mariner) [2]

12 Long answer 8 marks

Answer EITHER A OR B in about 150 words.

A. Do written words always reach the person for whom they matter? Compare Miriam's delayed letter with the sonnet's promise that remembrance will continue through later readers. (The Letter; Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monuments)

OR

B. How do remembered words help characters interpret new experiences? Compare Gogon Pakrashi's advice with Michael's recollection of his father's claim about computer memory. Distinguish useful guidance from proven explanation.

End of Question Paper 20